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### REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

*A Diary in America: with Remarks on its Institutions.* Part II. By Captain Marryat, C.B. 3 vols. 12mo. London, 1839. Longman and Co.

A fortnight ago we put in our thumb and pulled out a plum from the close of these volumes, and most maliciously held it up for the "Edinburgh Review" to snap at. We have now to pay the attention due to the whole publication; and, from what we have noted in the first of these volumes, we find that all we can do this week is to confine ourselves to it, and leave its followers to follow hereafter as may be.

A map of aboriginal America, when covered by its own red people, is prefixed, and the eye glances over the vast tracts of territory where the Adirondacks, Ottawas, Pokanaketts, Pequods, Cherokees, Pawtuckets, Mohawks, Oneidas, Cayugas, Onondagas, Senecas, Creeks, Delawares, Mannahoers, Monacans, Tuscaroras, Catawbas, Yamapesees, Choctaws, Chicasaws, Yazooes, Cumanches, Shawanees, Pawnees, Sauces, Foxes, Peorias, Kaskasias, Kickapoos, Illinois, Miammes, Menonomies, Chippeways, Sioux, Snakes, Blackfeet, Crow, Toways, Osages, Kansas, Teton, Mandans, Winnebagoes, Minnataries, Arickarees, Assinaboins, Crees, Pawhatans, Wyandots, Hurons, and Florida Indians, hunted the elk, the bear, and the buffalo, and wild in his woods the noble savage ran. A feeling like that with which Cicero beheld the ruins and desolation on his right hand and on his left, when he so eloquently bewailed the once flourishing cities of antiquity, creeps over the breast when we survey a record like this. Where are these tribes and nations now? Alas! the very names of many of them are forgotten, and of all the places which knew them so short while ago, know them no more. Another race has driven them from their native haunts and possessions; and the sword, and disease, and demoralisation, and treachery, and oppression, have all but exterminated the denizens of a quarter of the habitable globe. It is, say the politician and statistician, "the course of things," but to the moralist and philanthropist it brings a most melancholy reflection. What deluges of blood must have been poured forth, and inconceivable measure of human misery endured, before this dreadful consummation was effected! The mind sickens at the thought, and we look for contrast and comfort to that other world where the blest Indian shall (like the Norseman of old), enjoy his paradise of the chase unmolested by the pale stranger, and again in happier realms smoke the calumet of peace—of everlasting peace.

In the stead of those who have nearly vanished from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, this mighty continent is peopled by a mixed white race, chiefly of British descent. Their grand characteristics are restless activity, enterprise, and energy in the pursuit of fortune. Their own quaint phrase, to "go right a-head," describes the nation and almost every individual member who composes it. "Dash forward" is the cry and mainspring of action; and though individuals meet with

many a reverse and the country many a check in this career (as even at the present moment), yet still there cannot be a doubt but that the principle must ultimately lead, by almost a regular advance, to immense and incalculable results.

All that our author relates tends to this conclusion: the waters are turbid and troubled as yet, but with time they must purify and settle, and a wonderful futurity awaits the continent of America. At present, for instance, Capt. M. observes:—

"The railroads in America are not so well made as in England, and are therefore more dangerous; but it must be remembered that at present nothing is made in America but to last a certain time; they go to the exact expense considered necessary and no further; they know that in twenty years they will be better able to spend twenty dollars than one now. The great object is to obtain quick returns for the outlay, and, except in few instances, durability or permanency is not thought of. One great cause of disasters is, that the railroads are not fenced on the sides, so as to keep the cattle off them, and it appears as if the cattle who range the woods are very partial to take their naps on the roads, probably from their being drier than the other portions of the soil. It is impossible to say how many cows have been cut into atoms by the trains in America, but the frequent accidents arising from these causes has occasioned the Americans to invent a sort of shovel, attached to the front of the locomotive, which takes up a cow, tossing her off right or left. At every fifteen miles of the railroads there are refreshment rooms; the cars stop, all the doors are thrown open, and out rush the passengers like boys out of school, and crowd round the tables to solace themselves with pies, patties, cakes, hard-boiled eggs, ham, custards, and a variety of railroad luxuries, too numerous to mention. The bell rings for departure, in they all hurry with their hands and mouths full, and off they go again, until the next stopping place induces them to relieve the monotony of the journey by masticating without being hungry."

A considerable portion of the volume under notice is devoted to the subject of travelling; the rest to the press and the condition of the Mississippi, &c. The terrible loss of lives by the explosion of steamers and railroad accidents, furnishes matter for some remarkable and most tragical statements; but these we shall pass by for the more miscellaneous choice of some travelling anecdotes. Capt. M. speaks highly of the general accommodation at the hotels, and the moderation and honesty of the charges. Some of the adjuncts, however, are not of the most pleasing kind:—

"He who is of the silver-fork school will not find much comfort out of the American cities and large towns. There are no neat, quiet, little inns, as in England. It is all the 'rough and tumble' system, and when you stop at humble inns you must expect to eat peas with a two-pronged fork, and to sit down to meals with people whose exterior is any thing but agreeable, to attend upon yourself, and to sleep in a room in which there are three or four other beds (I

have slept in one with nearly twenty), most of them carrying double, even if you do not have a companion in your own. A New York friend of mine travelling in an extra with his family, told me that at a western inn he had particularly requested that he might not have a bed-fellow, and was promised that he should not. On his retiring, he found his bed already occupied, and he went down to the landlady, and expostulated. 'Well,' replied she, 'it's only your own driver; I thought you wouldn't mind him.' Another gentleman told me, that having arrived at a place called Snake's Hollow, on the Mississippi, the bed was made on the kitchen-floor, and the whole family and travellers, amounting in all to seventeen, of all ages and both sexes, turned into the same bed altogether. Of course this must be expected in a new country, and is a source of amusement rather than of annoyance.

Amongst other points upon which the Americans are to be pitied, and for which the most perfect of theoretical governments could never compensate, is the misery and annoyance to which they are exposed from their domestics. They are absolutely slaves to them, especially in the western free states; there are no regulations to control them. At any fancied affront they leave the house without a moment's warning, putting on their hats or bonnets, and walking out of the street-door, leaving their masters and mistresses to get on how they can. I remember when I was staying with a gentleman in the west, that, on the first day of my arrival, he apologised to me for not having a man servant, the fellow having then been drunk for a week; a woman had been hired to help for a portion of the day, but most of the labour fell upon his wife, whom I found one morning cleaning my room. The fellow remained ten days drunk, and then (all his money being spent) sent to his master to say that he would come back on condition that he would give him a little more liquor. To this proposition the gentleman was compelled to assent, and the man returned as if he had conferred a favour. The next day, at dinner, there being no porter up, the lady said to her husband, 'Don't send ——— for it, but go yourself, my dear; he is so very cross again that I fear he will leave the house.' A lady of my acquaintance in New York told her coachman that she should give him warning; the reply from the box was, 'I reckon I have been too long in the woods to be scared with an owl.' Had she noticed this insolence, he would probably have got down from the box, and have left her to drive her own cattle. The coloured servants are, generally speaking, the most civil; after them the Germans; the Irish and English are very bad. At the hotels, &c., you very often find Americans in subordinate situations, and it is remarkable that when they are so, they are much more civil than the imported servants. Few of the American servants, even in the large cities, understand their business, but it must be remembered that few of them have ever learnt it, and, moreover, they are expected to do three times as much as a servant would do in an English house. The American houses are much too large for the number of

servants employed, which is another cause for service being so much disliked. It is singular that I have not found in any one book, written by English, French, or German travellers, any remarks made upon a custom which the Americans have of almost entirely living, I may say, in the basement of their house; and which is occasioned by their difficulties in housekeeping with their insufficient domestic establishments. I say custom of the Americans, as it is the case in nine houses out of ten; only the more wealthy, travelled, and refined portion of the community in their cities deviating from the general practice. \* \* \*

I was on board of a steam-boat from Detroit to Buffalo, and entered into conversation with a young woman who was leaning over the taffrail. She had been in service and was returning home.—‘You say you lived with Mr. W.’? ‘No, I didn’t,’ replied she, rather tartly; ‘I said I lived with Mrs. W.’—‘Oh! I understand. In what situation did you live?’ ‘I lived in the house.’—‘Of course you did, but what as?’ ‘What as? As a gal should live.’—‘I mean what did you do?’ ‘I helped Mrs. W.’—‘And now you are tired of helping others?’ ‘Guess I am.’—‘Who is your father?’ ‘He’s a doctor.’—‘A doctor! and he allows you to go out?’ ‘He said I might please myself.’—‘Will he be pleased at your coming home again?’ ‘I went out to please myself, and I come home to please myself. Cost him nothing for four months; that’s more than all gals can say.’—‘And now you are going home to spend your money?’ ‘Don’t want to go home for that, it’s all gone.’—‘I have been much amused with the awkwardness and nonchalant manners of the servants in America. Two American ladies who had just returned from Europe, told me that shortly after their arrival at Boston, a young man had been sent to them from Vermont to do the duty of footman. He had been a day or two in the house, when they rang the bell and ordered him to bring up two glasses of lemonade. He made his appearance with the lemonade, which had been prepared and given to him on a tray by a female servant; but the ladies, who were sitting one at each end of a sofa and conversing, not being ready for it just then, said to him, ‘We’ll take it presently, John.’ ‘Guess I can wait,’ replied the man, deliberately taking his seat on the sofa between them, and placing the tray on his knees.”

The Americans are represented as being most injuriously addicted to drinking, as the following extracts will shew:—

“The bar of an American hotel is generally a very large room on the basement, fitted up very much like our gin-palaces in London, not so elegant in its decorations indeed, but on the same system. A long counter runs across it, behind which stand two or three bar-keepers to wait upon the customers, and distribute the various potations, compounded from the contents of several rows of bottles behind them. Here the eye reposes on masses of pure crystal ice, large bunches of mint, decanters of every sort of wine, every variety of spirits, lemons, sugar, bitters, segars, and tobacco; it really makes one feel thirsty, even the going into a bar.” Here you meet every body and every body meets you. Here the senator, the member of Congress, the merchant, the store-keeper, travellers from the far West, and every other part of the country, who have come to pur-

chase goods, all congregate. Most of them have a segar in their mouths, some are transacting business, others conversing, some sitting down together whispering confidentially. Here you obtain all the news, all the scandal, all the politics, and all the fun; it is this dangerous propinquity, which occasions so much intemperance. Mr. Head has no bar at the Mansion-House in Philadelphia, and the consequence is, that there is no drinking, except wine at dinner; but in all the other hotels, it would appear as if they purposely allowed the frequenters no room to retire to, so that they must be driven to the bar, which is by far the most profitable part of the concern. The consequence of the bar being the place of general resort, is, that there is an unceasing pouring out and amalgamation of alcohol, and other compounds, from morning to late at night. To drink with a friend when you meet him is good fellowship, to drink with a stranger is politeness, and a proof of wishing to be better acquainted. Mr. A. is standing at the bar, enter B. ‘My dear B. how are you?’ ‘Quite well, and you?’—‘Well, what shall it be?’ ‘Well, I don’t care: a gin sling.’—‘Two gin slings, barkeeper.’ Touch glasses, and drink. Mr. A. has hardly swallowed his gin sling, and replaced his segar, when in comes Mr. D. ‘A. how are you?’—‘Ah! D. how goes it on with you?’—‘Well, I thank you: what shall we have?’ ‘Well, I don’t care; I say brandy cocktail.’—‘Give me another;’ both drink, and the shilling is thrown down on the counter. Then B. comes up again. ‘A. you must allow me to introduce my friend C.’ ‘Mr. A.—I shake hands—most happy to make the acquaintance. I trust I shall have the pleasure of drinking something with you?’—‘With great pleasure, Mr. A., I will take a julep. Two juleps, barkeeper.’ ‘Mr. C. your good health—Mr. A. yours; if you should come our way, most happy to see you.’—drink. Now, I will appeal to the Americans themselves, if this is not a fair sample of a bar-room. They say that the English cannot settle any thing properly without a dinner. I am sure the Americans can fix nothing without a drink. If you meet, you drink; if you part, you drink; if you make acquaintance, you drink; if you close a bargain, you drink; they quarrel in their drink, and they make it up with a drink. They drink because it is hot; they drink because it is cold. If successful in elections, they drink and rejoice; if not, they drink and swear;—they begin to drink early in the morning, they leave off late at night; they commence it early in life, and they continue it until they drop down into the grave. To use their own expression, the way they drink is ‘quite a caution.’\* As for water, what the man said, when asked to belong to the Temperance Society, appears to be the general opinion, ‘It’s very good for navigation.’ So much has it become the habit to cement all friendship, and commence acquaintance by drinking, that it is a cause of serious offence to refuse, especially in a foreigner, as the Americans like to call the English. I was always willing to accommodate the Americans in this particular, as far as I could (there, at least, they will do me justice); that at times I drank much more than I wished is certain; yet still I gave most serious offence, especially in the West, because I would not drink early in the morning, or before dinner, which is a

general custom in the States, although much more prevalent in the South and West, where it is literally, ‘Stranger, will you drink or fight?’ This refusal on my part, or rather excusing myself from drinking with all those who were introduced to me, was eventually the occasion of much disturbance and of great animosity towards me—certainly, most unreasonably, as I was introduced to at least twenty every forenoon; and had I drunk with them all, I should have been in the same state as many of them were—that is, not really sober for three or four weeks at a time. That the constitutions of the Americans must suffer from this habit is certain; they do not, however, appear to suffer so much as we should. They say that you may always know the grave of a Virginian; as, from the quantity of juleps he has drunk, mint invariably springs up where he has been buried. But the Virginians are not the greatest drinkers, by any means. I was once looking for an American, and asked a friend of his where I should find him. ‘Why,’ replied he, pointing to an hotel opposite, ‘that is his licking place (a term borrowed from deer resorting to lick the salt): we will see if he is there.’ He was not; the barkeeper said he had left about ten minutes. ‘Well, then, you had better remain here, he is certain to be back in ten more, if not sooner.’ The American judged his friend rightly; in five minutes he was back again, and we had a drink together, of course. I did not see it myself, but I was told that somewhere in Missouri, or thereabouts, west of the Mississippi, all the bars have what they term a kicking-board, it being the custom with the people who live there, instead of touching glasses when they drink together, to kick sharply with the side of the foot against the board, and that, after this ceremony, you are sworn friends. I have had it mentioned to me by more than one person, therefore I presume it is the case. What the origin of it is I know not, unless it intends to imply, ‘I’m yours to the last kick.’\* Before I finish this article on hotels, I may as well observe here that there is a custom in the United States, which I consider very demoralising to the women, which is that of taking up permanent residence in large hotels. There are several reasons for this: one is, that people marry so very early that they cannot afford to take a house with the attendant expenses, for in America it is cheaper to live in a large hotel than to keep a house of your own; another is the difficulty of obtaining servants, and, perhaps, the unwillingness of the women to have the fatigue and annoyance which is really occasioned by an establishment in that country; added to which is the want of society, arising from their husbands being from morning to night plodding at their various avocations. At

“In a chapter which follows this, I have said that the women of America are physically superior to the men. This may appear contradictory, as of course they could not be born so; nor are they, for I have often remarked how very fine the American male children are, especially those lads who have grown up to the age of fourteen or sixteen. One could hardly believe it possible that the men are the same who advanced in life. How is this to be accounted for? I can only suppose that it is from their plunging too early into life as men, having thrown off parental control, and commencing the usual excesses of young men in every country at too tender an age. The constant stimulus of drink must, of course, be another powerful cause; not that the Americans often become intoxicated; on the contrary, you will see many more in this condition every day in this country than you will in America. But occasional intoxication is not so injurious to the constitution as that continual application of spirits, which must enfeeble the stomach, and, with the assistance of tobacco, destroy its energies. The Americans are a drinking, but not a drunken nation, and, as I have before observed, the climate operates upon them very powerfully.”

\* “Every steam-boat has its bar. The theatres, all places of public amusement, and even the capitol itself, as I have observed in my Diary.”

\* “It was not a bad idea of a man who, generally speaking, was very low spirited, on being asked the cause, replied, that he did not know, but he thought ‘that he had been born with three drinks too little in him.’”

some of the principal hotels you will find the apartments of the lodgers so permanently taken, that the plate with their name engraved on it is fixed on the door. I could almost tell whether a lady in America kept her own establishment or lived at an hotel, the difference of manners was so marked; and, what is worse, it is chiefly the young married couples who are to be found there."

Of the Mint Julep so renowned as an American drink, Capt. M. informs us the Virginians have not, though they claim it, the merit of the invention; for,—

"In the times of Charles I. and II. it must have been known, for Milton expressly refers to it in his 'Comus':—

'Behold this cordial julep here  
Which flames and dances in its crystal bounds  
With spirits of balm and fragrant syrups mixed.  
Not that nepenthe, which the wife of Thone  
In Egypt gave to Jove-born Helena,  
Is of such power to stir up joy like this,  
To life so friendly, or so cool to thirst.'

If that don't mean mint-julep, I don't know the English language."

The newspaper press of a country is always a subject of interest, and we copy a few of the author's opinions upon that of the United States:—

"Mr. Tocqueville observes, 'that not a single individual of the twelve millions who inhabit the territory of the United States has as yet dared to propose any restrictions upon the liberty of the press.' This is true, and all the respectable Americans acknowledge that this liberty has degenerated into a licentiousness which threatens the most alarming results; as it has assumed a power, which awes not only individuals, but the government itself. A due liberty allowed to the press may force a government to do right, but a licentiousness may compel it into error."

A witty but unprincipled statesman of our own times has said, that 'speech was bestowed on man to conceal his thoughts'; judging from its present condition, he might have added,—the press in America to pervert truth.' But were I to quote the volumes of authority from American and English writers, they would tire the reader. The above are for the present quite sufficient to establish the fact, that the press in the United States is licentious to the highest possible degree, and defies control; my object is to point out the effect of this despotism upon society, and to shew how injurious it is in every way to the cause of morality and virtue. Of course, the newspaper press is the most mischievous, in consequence of its daily circulation, the violence of political animosity, and the want of respectability in a large proportion of the editors. The number of papers published and circulated in Great Britain, among a population of twenty-six millions, is calculated at about three hundred and seventy. The number published in the United States, among thirteen millions, are supposed to vary between nine and ten thousand. Now the value of newspapers may be fairly calculated by the capital expended upon them; and not only is not one quarter of the sum expended in England, upon three hundred and seventy newspapers, expended upon the nine or ten thousand in America; but I really believe that the expense of 'The Times' newspaper alone is equal to at least five thousand of the minor papers in the United States, which are edited by people of no literary pretension, and at an expense so trifling as would appear to us not only ridiculous, but impossible. As to the capabilities of the majority of the editors, let the Americans speak for themselves. 'Every wretch who can write

an English paragraph (and many who cannot), every pettifogger without practice, every one whose poverty or crimes have just left him cash or credit enough to procure a press and types, sets up a newspaper.' Again:—'If you be puzzled what to do with your son, if he be a born dunce, if reading and writing be all the accomplishments he can acquire, if he be horribly ignorant and depraved, if he be indolent and an incorrigible liar, lost to all shame and decency, and incurably dishonest, make a newspaper editor of him. Look around you, and see a thousand successful proofs that no excellence or acquirement, moral or intellectual, is requisite to conduct a press. The more defective an editor is, the better he succeeds. We could give a thousand instances.'—*Boston News*. These are the assertions of the Americans, not my own; that in many instances they are true, I have no doubt. In a country so chequered as the United States, such must be expected."

After mentioning some honourable exceptions, Capt. M. proceeds:—

"Still the majority are disgraceful, not only from their vulgarity, but from their odious personalities and disregard to truth. The bombast and ignorance shewn in some of these is very amusing. Here is an extract or two from the small newspapers, published in the less populous countries. An editor down East, speaking of his own merits, thus concludes: 'I'm a real catastrophe—a small creation; Mount Vesuvius at the top, with red-hot lava pouring out of the crater, and routing nations—my fists are rocky mountains—arms, whig liberty poles, with iron springs. Every step I take is an earthquake—every blow I strike is a clap of thunder—and every breath I breathe is a tornado. My disposition is Dupont's best, and goes off at a flash—when I blast there'll be nothing left but a hole three feet in circumference and no end to its depth.' Another writes the account of a storm as follows:—'On Monday afternoon, while the hay-makers were all out gathering in the hay, in anticipation of a shower from a small cloud that was seen hanging over the hilly regions towards the south-east, a tremendous storm suddenly burst upon them, and forced them to seek shelter from its violence. The wind whistled outrageously through the old elms, scattering the beautiful foliage, and then going down into the meadow, where the men had just abruptly left their work unfinished, and overturning the half-made ricks, whisked them into the air, and filled the whole afternoon full of hay.'"

But disgrace is not allied to the press alone, lying and defamation are, according to our author, most prevalent vices throughout the population of the Union.

A chapter on copyright and literary publication is a very important one; and the picture of manners not yet amended on the Mississippi is horrible; but we have no room for farther illustration, and so must say good-by to the first division of this review.

#### *The Marine Officer; or, Sketches of Service.*

By Sir Robert Steele, Knt. K.C.S. &c. 2 vols. 12mo. London, 1839. Colburn.

*PER MARE PER TERRAM* is the motto of the marine, to which he appears likely to add *Nec in armis præstantior quam in toga*; for Sir Robert Steele's work now before us is the second which has emanated from a marine officer during the present year. Nor are we inclined to quarrel with our somewhat novel associates in the field of literature; it is only as they rest

on their swords that they write: for, since Alfred Burton produced his humorous "Johnny Newcome in the Navy," many years ago, there has been scarcely an author in the gallant corps until lately; and though we should be sorry to bid our marines wear their swords merely to mend their pens—of course we mean not here that the pen of Steele requires mending—it is pleasant to see the arts of peace cultivated even by professed belligerents. *The Marine Officer* is an autobiography. Our author, under the name of Rhenubus Meerhay, evidently gives us an account of his own birth, parentage, and education; and if in this he may have erred, it is where the wisest of us are prone to err when making self the hero of our story—by attaching a general importance to scenes and incidents which, even in the mind of the narrator, owe their principal charm to an association of ideas which it is impossible to convey to listener or reader. But soon the *Marine Officer* comes fairly on the stage; and we have the particulars of a dinner at the George Inn, Portsmouth, where he, at that time belonging to the fleet, was honoured by an invitation to dine with four captains in the navy: his characteristic sketches of two of whom are amusing.

"Captain Joseph Sidney Yorke used to boast that he was in parliament when he was 'a referer.' He was exceedingly vain of his birth; but, setting aside a certain impatience of control, even of self-control, which carried him into occasional excesses, as we shall hereafter see, he was a jovial and pleasant fellow, especially on shore. With young people he was extremely popular at first; he dazzled and captivated the inexperienced mind, and was a great favourite with the ladies. He made long speeches out of the House of Commons and laughable ones in, which, with the advantage of having one brother a secretary of state and subsequently first lord of the admiralty, and another viceroy of Ireland, enabled him to perform what soldiers call wonders and sailors miracles. As a proof of his ubiquity, he had his flag flying, and commanded a squadron at Lisbon, while he kept his seat as a junior lord of the admiralty. He, moreover, actually converted an island in the Cattegat into a fifty-gun ship; ultimately, he became a remarkable exception to the statutes laid down by the Prince Regent at the augmentation of 'the Bath' in 1815: for, at the close of the war, he was made a knight-commander of that most honourable order, although he had not appeared in the 'Gazette,' as required by the regulations. James Vashon, Esq. was captain of my ship, the Princess Royal. *Jemmy Vashon* (his sobriquet between decks) was an out-and-outer of the old school; he would stamp and swear, and threaten to flog, till he was black in the face. 'Maintop, there! maintop, ahoy, I say! D—tion, I'll make you answer! I'll pick your ears, you precious rascal!' It blew great guns, and his voice was carried away like a feather. 'Give me a trumpet, sir!' (to his first lieutenant). 'A trumpet, Mr. Shed!' (to his second lieutenant). 'Not a trumpet on deck, by G—d! D—n you altogether!' and away he'd bolt into his cabin for his own, and come back as cool as an oyster. He was a compound of opposites,—sweet and sour, bitter and agreeable, weak and efficient, angry and forgiving. Take him in either of these veins separately, and he was repulsive or engaging, as the case might be: put his character together, take him all in all, and he was like a bowl of good punch,—you could regale with him when present, regret him when absent; you would like to bottle him up, and cork him



down, and conserve him to all time as a good fellow and a capital commander."

The Earl of Northesk and Captain Albemarle Bertie make up the quartette of post-captains, and, certainly, the table-talk is a fair sample of naval conversation. The glorious first of June is fought o'er again with considerable effect, even to the reading of Lord Howe's despatches. This may appear overdrawn to those who have not now and then mixed in naval society; but we have reason to believe that even the veteran soldier, who is a pretty good hand at shewing "how fields are won," has less of that exclusive partiality for professional topics in conversation than the "blue jacket." A naval officer will fight and sail his ship "a long hour by Shrewsbury clock;" or, during a "watch below" at sea, finding attentive auditors in his nautical companions; and no discourse is so acceptable in cockpit, wardroom, cabin, or naval club on shore, as that which makes the listener feel his foot upon the deck and the wide world of waters around him. Sir Robert Steele seems to have made good use of this peculiarity appertaining to his messmates throughout his book, and many a well-told naval anecdote is introduced after such fashion. But, ere we award a further meed of praise, we must declare against an instance of bad taste which annoys us in the conclusion of a rather effective description of a military funeral. We were still dwelling on the striking remark, "the horse without its rider—what a type of death!" when we were startled by being carelessly informed that, after the ceremony, the late mourners marched off to the cadence of some lively air: the author suggests such as "Go to the devil and shake yourself!" The custom alluded to is incongruous enough, but this attempt at pleasantry more so. We are again well satisfied with our *Marine Officer* in a rapid sketch which he gives us of his ship on pay-day. A certain Jewess, whom he describes as more lovely than the imaginary Rebecca of "Ivanhoe," presents him with a letter when on shore, which the vain youth fancies must contain a love mission, as he is forbidden to peruse it in her presence. "Read it when you go home," said she; "you will do what we ask?" and then she looked up so beseechingly with those dark, dark eyes, forcing their beams through the deep-fringed silken lashes. "Yes, certainly," I said. And what was it about after all? why the ship was to be paid, and the Jew wanted a preference for his boat! "Deuce take the old usurer!" said I, throwing away the letter. But the spirit of Rebecca presently came to the rescue, and the Jew's petition was preferred, and his boat was amongst the first permitted to come alongside the Victory the morning she was paid. It would be difficult to describe the scene on board a man-of-war on pay-day. If ever the rules of the strictest discipline are relaxed on board, it is upon this occasion. It is the only holiday, except a battle, in the monotonous life of a sailor. We have not space to continue the account of this said pay-day; we can only say, that if it is considered a holiday by "Jack," he must have a peculiar idea of one, for it appears to us very like a tumultuous meeting of his creditors. Lieut. Meerhay now shares in the glories of Trafalgar with Nelson; and he tells us that his corps gained only laurels on that occasion.

"Lord Byron said 'reality is stranger than fiction;' and certainly nobody could imagine the fact, that in this glorious battle above one hundred officers, and more than three thousand men of the marines, were actually engaged,

and their loss in killed and wounded was comparatively greater than that of the navy; and while the latter got peerages, pensions, baronetcies, and general promotion, the marines had only one pitiful brevet majority given as their share of the spoil—as a reward amongst them all!"

The second volume contains some interesting matter respecting the Peninsular war, during a portion of which our soldier *per terram* served. As we have said before, his narrative is most excursive; so much so, that it is frequently difficult to make out how much or how little of that which is told came under the author's personal observation. We have here, too, some details of the siege of Acre incidentally introduced upon the authority of his brother-officers engaged, and of Sir Sidney Smith, with whom he was on terms of intimacy in after-life. An account of Djezzar (executioner) Pasha, who commanded at Acre, and well deserved the horrible title his former office under Ali Bey had conferred on him, shews us how often, for wise ends, good may come out of evil. The history of this strange ally of England is well known, as well the intrepidity of the hero of Acre, "in bending him to his purpose" during their memorable interview; but we have here several instances of this pasha's tyranny, which we can scarcely believe to have been perpetrated even among the Neros of Mohammedan despotism. Our author tells us, that upon one occasion Djezzar took a fancy into his head that his officers should arrest every passenger then in the streets near his palace, and bring them before him. On being informed that no more could be brought into his terrible presence for want of room, he coolly ordered those on his left hand to be hanged, and those on his right to be fed. In spite of the cries of the relatives of the condemned, who fill the air with lamentations, the work of murder goes on, while Djezzar appears at a window, and thus addresses the people: "What would ye of me? I am but the executioner of the will of God!" And yet this man, with a sort of brute courage and power of command, was made a valuable instrument in staying the march of Napoleon, to the disappointment of that insatiable ambition which, after having shaken Europe to its centre, sought a new world to conquer. We will not enter into questions as to the necessity of corporal punishment, imprisonment, and other points of military and naval discipline, which appear to us very fairly and dispassionately discussed throughout the volumes. Leaving such topics to readers of both services, who will be sure to become acquainted with the *Marine Officer*, we conclude by recommending this work as an entertaining miscellany, comprising a diversified range of subject, which renders our sea-soldier a very agreeable companion.

*A Practical Treatise on Brewing, based on Chemical and Economical Principles; with Formula for Public Brewers, and Instructions for Private Families.* By William Black. Second Edition, much enlarged and improved. Pp. 216. London, 1839. Smith, Elder, and Co.

As matters, literary, scientific, and artistical, work up, we endeavour to make our sheet for the week a mixture of the sweet and useful, agreeable to all palates, and beneficial to the health of all minds. The aim is a good brewage; such as it is the object of this volume, though in another sense and with other materials, to produce; since, instead of reviews,

there is malt; instead of criticism, mashing; instead of theatricals, hops; instead of poetry, fermentation; instead of literature, yeast; and, instead of arts and sciences, ale and porter. Never mind: it is but fair in making our *gyle* for No. 1196, so near Christmas, too, that we throw into it a cast of Mr. Black's ingredients.

When the first edition of his *Treatise* appeared, we paid due attention to a production of such general utility; but the quantity and quality of the new observations and improvements upon the old induce us to say a few words upon this second *coup*. Among the particulars thus brought forward, we would mention a mode of drying malt on the kiln, not generally practised, and yet, when tried, found to answer better than any other method. But the writer's investigation of the influence of electro-chemical action in the manufacture of beer is still more important. He points out its injurious effects on fermentation, and cites cases which put his opinions beyond the possibilities of doubt or contradiction. In this respect he has been the first to trace these effects to their causes, and thus make a new era in the art of brewing. In his chapter on mashing, the temperatures at which the finest extract can be obtained are so distinctly laid down as to do away with all the pretended mysteries in this pseudo secret; and some curious facts are also adduced with regard to the boiling of worts under high pressure.

A difficulty which has ever perplexed both the public and the private brewer, viz. the want of uniformity in fermentation, is very ably and practically discussed; and, as far as we can form a judgment, the causes of the irregularity are fully explained and accounted for—another great step towards the more perfect manufacture of the article.

In the appendix, the formulae of different brewings are so plain, that we, with no other instructions, and never having touched a tub or copper in our lives, would undertake to produce a very tolerable and wholesome tippie. Indeed the directions for private families are most simple, lucid, and excellent; and nothing is forgotten that can tend to make the good housewife mistress of the entire system by which she may cheer the hearts of her domestic circle with the blood of honest John Barleycorn. Hitherto that worthy has too often been a nugatory martyr and unsatisfactory sacrifice: now it will be our own faults (thanks to the *Black Art!*) if he is not wetted, dried, ground down, roasted, and resuscitated, till all rejoice in his metamorphosis. We shall only add that brewers, distillers, maltsters, licensed victuallers, and country gentlemen, farmers, and private families, will find this a very useful treatise to put them in the way of supplying a very generous and healthy beverage.

The author says (and every man likes to recommend his own doings), that some samples of ale brewed under his direction competed in India with Hodgson's Pale! but after what we read in Mrs. Postans' of the valiant Syud Abdoola's fondness for that gratifying draught, preferred to claret and champagne in tropical climates, we cannot but be slow in the belief of this boast. Nevertheless, we have no doubt of the commendable requisites in Mr. Black's malt liquors either for home or foreign consumption.

JESSE'S MEMOIRS OF THE STUARTS.

[Second notice.]

At this busy time, when literary and scientific reports claim so much of our space, and the publishing trade is brisk, we can only afford to refer once more, and slightly, to Mr. Jesse's

entertaining volumes. Lady Arabella Stuart, the Duke and Duchess of Richmond, the Countess of Buckingham, Lord Dorset, Lord Salisbury, the too famous Carr, and the too infamous Francis Howard, Earl and Countess of Somerset, Earl of Northampton, the Countess of Pembroke, her husband and sons, James Hay, Earl of Carlisle, Lord Bacon, Lord Herbert of Cherbury, and, Archeon, the king's particular fool, illustrate the rest of the first volume (beyond the long notice in our last number), and the reign of the first James. The second goes with equal talent and interesting research, so as to afford a familiar picture of the time of Charles I., his character and the characters of his queen and family, the Duke of Buckingham, Strafford, Laud, and others, concluding with the renowned dwarf, Sir Jeffrey Hudson, of whom we are told:—

"There is in the British Museum a little work entitled, 'The New Year's Gift, Presented at Court from the Lady Parvula to the Lord Minimus, commonly called Little Jeffery.' It was printed in London in 1636. The volume is one of remarkably small dimensions, with a view of adapting it to the subject. After a number of indifferent jokes and some wretched pedantry, it concludes with some slight humour:—'In short, who desireth not in debt to be as little as may be, and what a rare temper is it in men of descent not to be ambitious of greatness, even in the highest matters which men attempt, how commonly the most do come short, and in their greatest business effect but little. And, therefore, as it was said of Scipio, that he was *nunquam minus solus quam cum solus*,—never less alone than when alone; so it may be said of you, excellent abstract of greatness, that you are *nunquam minus parvus quam cum parvus*,—never less little than when little. I hope you will pardon me if in my style I have used a little boldness and familiarity, you knowing it to be so commendable, and that it is *nimia familiaritas*, great boldness only, which breedeth contempt; especially since you are no stranger, but of my own country; though some, judging by your stature, have taken you to be a low-countryman. Many merry new years are wished unto you by

"The sworn servant of your

"Honour's perfections,  
"PARVULA."

In Newgate Street, over the entrance to a small court, on the north side of the street, may still be seen (1839), a small sculpture in stone, on which are engraved the figures of William Evans, the King's gigantic porter, and by his side the redoubtable Sir Jeffery. There is an engraving of the sculpture in Pennant's London, and, at Hampton Court, an original picture of Sir Jeffery by Mytens.\*

There is also a good marble statue of him in the garden of the Castle Inn at Richmond, in cavalier armour, and looking, as he was, most warlike. The Duke of Buckingham's love and patronage of the Arts might have furnished some agreeable matter; but we have no reason to find fault with our author, whose work is so executed as to convey to the reader a very lively picture of the times of which it treats. From being unmixed up with other subjects, the domestic and courtly history shines out clearly and in striking relief.

#### VOYAGE OF THE DOURGA.

[Second notice: conclusion.]

"THE following occurrence gives a remarkable proof of the mildness of their laws. An Arafura, who had gone out fishing, intending

to be absent eight days, did not return, and his wife, who had no more provisions at home than would last for this period, requested assistance from her neighbour. Hence arose a mutual friendship, which, however, at first only shewed itself in little attentions, the man drawing water, cutting wood, and providing fish for his fair neighbour, who could not avoid feeling grateful for the kindness; and no one will be surprised at their friendship at length ripening into love, when, conscious of their guilt, they took flight to one of the neighbouring islands. The husband, who had been detained by contrary winds, returned at the end of two months, and demanded his wife of her brothers, who were therefore necessitated to go in search of her, when the guilty couple were soon discovered and brought back to their village. The injured husband demanded an enormous fine from the seducer of his wife, which the latter refused to pay, stating that during his entire life he should not be able to collect a sufficient quantity of trepan to make up the sum. An appeal was therefore made to the elders, and, on the woman being questioned, she frankly stated the kindness of her neighbour in supplying her wants had called forth her gratitude, and this ripened into love—she had made the first advances. The elders considered this mode of proceeding on the part of the wife rather strange, and, taking it into consideration that it was very difficult for any one to withstand a declaration of love from a young woman, they lost sight of the severe laws respecting the conduct of men towards married women, and determined that the offender should only pay a small fine, and advised the husband never again to leave his wife at home without provisions. The lady returned home with her husband, who was wise enough never to mention the subject, following up the old proverb,

"Men moet geene aude  
Koeijen uit de sloot halen."

"Among the Arafuras," continues the writer, "the treatment of their dead betrays, in the greatest degree, their uncivilised condition, and the uncertainty which exists among them as to their future state." When a man dies, all his relations assemble and destroy all the goods he may have collected during his life; even the gongs are broken to pieces and thrown away. In their villages I met with several heaps of porcelain plates and basins,† the property of deceased individuals, the survivors entertaining an idea that they have no right to make use of them. After death the body is laid out on a small mat, and supported against a ladder until the relatives of the deceased assemble, which seldom takes place until four days have elapsed; and, as decomposition will have commenced before this, the parts where moisture has appeared are covered with lime. Fruitless endeavours to stop the progress of decay! In the meantime, damar, or resin, is continually burnt in the house; while the guests, who have already assembled, regale themselves with quantities of arrack, and of a spirit they themselves prepare from the juice of a fruit, amid violent raving, the discord being increased by the beating of gongs, and the howling and lamentation of the women. Food is offered to the deceased, and, when they find that he does

\* "How much it is to be wished that these people, who are simple, not incredulous, should be converted to Christianity! The Mohammedans, who always have priests in these parts, make many proselytes. Yet religion is the chief bond by which the natives of India are attached to us."

† "These articles, which are the manufacture of China, are brought hither from Singapore by the Bughis traders.—Ed."

not partake of it, the mouth is filled with eatables, siri, and arrack, until it runs down the body, and spreads over the floor. When the friends and relatives are all collected, the body is placed upon a bier, on which had been laid numerous pieces of cloth, the quantity being according to the ability of the deceased; and under the bier are placed large dishes of China porcelain, to catch any moisture that may fall from the body. The dishes which have been put to this purpose are afterwards much prized; and it is for this reason that dishes of an enormous size are so much prized by the Arafuras. A portion of the moisture that has exuded is mixed with arrack, and drunk by the guests, who think that they thus shew the true affection they bore to the deceased. During two or three days the house of the dead is constantly full of drunken and raving guests. The body is then brought out before the house, and supported against a post, when attempts are again made to induce it to eat. Lighted segars, arrack, rice, fruit, &c., are again stuffed into its mouth, and the bystanders, striking up a song, demand whether the sight of all his friends and fellow-villagers will not induce the deceased to awaken? At length, when they find all these endeavours to be fruitless, they place the body on a bier adorned with flags, and carry it out into the forest, where it is fixed upon the top of four posts. A tree, usually the *Pavetta Indica*, is then planted near it; and it is remarkable that at this last ceremony none but women, entirely naked, are present. This last ceremony is called by the Arafuras 'Sudah Buang,'\* by which they mean that the body is now cast away, and can listen to them no longer. The entire ceremony proves that the Arafuras are deprived of that consolation afforded by our religion; and that they only give expression to the grief they naturally feel at parting from one to whom they have been attached. The children, almost from their birth, are fed with boiled labu, or pumpkin, which renders it easy to wean them at a very early period. On the birth of a child, a coconut, with some fish, rice, and sago are hung up under the house, and permitted to drop off when they have decayed. They informed me that this was intended to prevent the child from ever being in want of any thing during his after-life."

To these interesting accounts we proceed to add a few other characteristics. In the Tenimber Isles,—

"The heaviest portion of the labour is performed by the women, the men devoting themselves to warlike pursuits, the chase, the fishery, and commerce. Early in the morning the young unmarried women under the escort of three or four armed men, depart for the plantations in the interior, and at sunset in the evening they may be seen returning, laden with the produce of their labour, which they bear in baskets upon the head. The married and elderly women usually remain at home, where they employ themselves in household affairs, tending the stock, and preparing the meals. On the marriage of a young woman, she adorns her ankles with one or two copper rings, which make a ringing noise at every step, by no means disagreeable to the ear. These singular ornaments give them a peculiar halting gait, the rings being from two and a half to three pounds weight.† Some are carved

\* "This term, together with those previously given as in use among the Arafuras, are all pure Malay; whence we may conclude that that language, if not their own, is at least familiar to them.—Ed."

† "The very young girls also wear a similar ornament, but it is much lighter, being made of thick brass wire."

with various figures. The natives of the lower class usually go entirely naked, only the chiefs and heads of families, with those who have visited foreign parts, wearing any clothing. Their warlike equipment is very singular. Like the Ceramese, and other Indian nations, they have their warriors or champions, who, when preparing for war, anoint their heads abundantly with cocoa-nut oil, and mix large bunches of loose hair with their own, which they raise up in a towering manner by means of a large bamboo comb, adorned with cock's feathers of various colours, to give them a fear-inspiring appearance. Their hair is also confined by bands of coloured cloth, studded with red beads, and ornamented with hanging shells. Round the middle they wear a piece of dried buffalo's hide by way of armour, to which is suspended their knife and their klewang, or cutlass. Large golden rings are attached to the ears; the neck is protected by a thick collar, studded with white shells; the costume of the warrior being completed by bands of ivory, worked over with beads, worn on the arms. When they go to war with their neighbours all other occupations are neglected, and they employ themselves in wandering through the forest, watching for opportunities to carry off the enemy's women. Occasionally the warriors call each other out, when a skirmish takes place; but their warlike propensities are chiefly exercised in plundering and in way-laying the enemy, when employed in his plantations or at the fishery, but never coming to a regular open fight. More sagoweer, or palm wine, is drank at this time than at any other, the cocoa-nut trees being put to no other use than to supply the ingredients. Before the tree bears fruit the blossom is enclosed in a case, the bottom of which is cut every day, and an earthen pot, or a piece of hollow bamboo, placed under to catch the sap, which, when fermented, acquires an intoxicating power."

After staying a while at many of the Southwest, South-east, and Arru Islands, establishing generally a native officer with the baton and flag of Dutch rule, Kolff was ordered to proceed, by the Banda seas, to the south coast of New Guinea, and on his way he visited the Ceram-laut and Goram Islands; and he says:—

"According to the information I received from some inhabitants of Ceram-laut, the natives of New Guinea are divided into two tribes, mountaineers and dwellers on the coast, who are continually waging war with each. The people occupying the sea-coast form by far the smaller portion, but from their warlike habits they find no difficulty in maintaining a superiority. The captives taken by the latter from the inferior tribes are sold to the foreign traders, by whom they are held in great esteem; so much so that their price is higher even than that given for slaves of Bali, Lombok, or Sumbawa. The women from Kobay, Ay, and Kares, are considered the most attractive, and are often kept as inferior wives by the Ceramese; the Raja of Kilwari, among others, having a wife born in the Papuan village of Atti-Atti. The price given for a slave on the coast is usually two pieces of white calico, valued at from eight to ten Spanish dollars; from sixty to seventy rupees (five to six pounds sterling) being obtained by the traders for them at Bali, and other places in that direction. Natives worthy of belief have assured me, that if a Papua of the coast is struck by a desire to obtain any articles brought by the foreign trader, for which he has no productions to give in exchange, he will not

hesitate to barter one or two of his children for them; and if his own are not at hand, he will ask the loan of those of his neighbour, promising to give his own in exchange when they come to hand, this request being rarely refused. This appeared to me to be almost incredible, but the most trustworthy natives were unanimous evidence to its truth. The mountaineers themselves sometimes sell their children also. In other places, I have known parents sell their children when their maintenance became too heavy a burden for them to bear, without heeding whether they would ever see them again. Such a total absence of feeling certainly brings these savage people below the level of dumb animals!"

We are told in the course of the voyage that "a number of birds usually came on board the brig towards evening, to roost, most of which appeared to me to be land-birds. The colours of some were very beautiful, and in many we could trace a resemblance to our small ducks, magpies, and larks."

Of New Guinea itself the lieutenant did not see much, and so we conclude with another notice of animal history at Timor-laut:—

"The wild cattle, with which the island abounds, are black, and have upright horns, their size being about the same as that of two-year-old cattle in Holland. The natives catch them with nooses of rattan, and also shoot them with arrows. Wild hogs are also to be met with in abundance. Monkeys do not exist on the island; and it is a singular thing, that throughout the Moluccan Archipelago they are only to be found on the island of Batchian, near the south end of Gilolo."

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

*A Lexicon of the Greek Language, for the Use of Colleges and Schools.* By the Rev. J. A. Giles, LL.D. 8vo. pp. 939. London, 1839. Longman and Co.

WHEN we lately reviewed the excellent Latin dictionary translated by Mr. Riddle, we felt that a good Greek lexicon was much wanted in our higher schools and colleges. This want has been most ably supplied by Mr. Giles, whose position, as head-master of the City of London School, was likely to indicate the best manner of performing his laborious task. The chief novelty of the present work is the great copiousness of its English-Greek division.

*A Cyclopædia of Practical Husbandry, and Rural Affairs in general.* By Martin Doyle, author of "Hints to Small Farmers," "Practical Gardening," &c. With Illustrations engraved on Wood. Pp. 507. Dublin, 1839. Curry, jun. and Co.

To practical experience, Mr. Doyle has joined care, assiduity, and research, in the compilation of this useful volume; which will be found serviceable to farmers and the rural community in general.

*Treatises on Poetry, Modern Romance, and Rhetoric.* By George Moir. Pp. 381. Edinburgh, 1839. Blacks.

THESE articles, originally contributed to the "Encyclopædia Britannica" by the learned Professor of Rhetoric in the University of Edinburgh, have asserted their claims upon the public by reaching a seventh edition. What rhetoric of ours could say more for them?

*Goethe's Faust, Part II.* with other Poems.

Translated by L. J. Bernays. 8vo. pp. 263. London, 1839. Low; Carlisle, Bielefeld.

WE have of late declined entering at length into any of the interminable disquisitions about Goethe, and shall therefore have but little to

say of this publication. Mr. Bernays, an idolater of the poet, has rendered his extraordinary production partly into prose and partly into the original metres; and in both has displayed a knowledge of his principal, and a command of the two languages. His former volume established a reputation which this will not diminish.

As it however introduces the English reader to the *Second Part of the Faust*, which was published in 1833 after Goethe's death, and of which we are not aware that any translation into our language has yet appeared, we may add a few words on the subject. Although many competent critics were of opinion that the author could not have meant the drama to end with the prison-scene, but that in consonance with the "Prologue in Heaven," Faust must necessarily be saved, yet others, and particularly amongst ourselves, seemed pertinaciously to cling to the common error that the versions published by Lord F. Egerton, Hayward, Talbot, Blackie, Symes, Anster, Birch, and now by Hills,\* constituted the entire poem of Goethe. The present work will shew that such was not Goethe's intention; and at the same time convey to the reader that idea of the original, which a translation, as close as might well be, without causing it to be English unrefractive to the foreign idiom and modes of expression, can communicate. Whether the poet has really finished his plan satisfactorily, or whether it would not have been better to have left it as a noble Torso, is a question which we shall not undertake to determine. At all events we are glad to see the opportunity given for those who are not German scholars,† to judge for themselves. We should also notice that the minor pieces, at the end of the volume, are not without interest and merit. Altogether, the performance is most creditable to the young translator.

*Champ de Roses, &c. par Adolphe Duhaute-Fauvet.* Pp. 344. (London, Simpkin and Marshall; Jeffs; Page, Hamersmith.)—A nice selection from above a hundred contemporary French poets, with literary notes by the editor.

*Guy Fawkes, &c. by the Rev. T. Lathbury, M.A. &c.* Pp. 133. (London, Parker.)—The author has here collected into one view the particulars of the story of the Gunpowder Plot, endeavoured to expound the motives and principles of the conspirators, and from the whole sounded an alarm to the present Protestant Church.

*The Ladies Flower-Garden of Ornamental Annuals.* By Mrs. Loudon. Nos. XI. XII. (London, Smith.)—The Centaurea tribe of singular form, and in our eyes of great elegance and beauty, the lasting Xeranthemum, the gaudy Zinnia, the dashing Aster, and a superb variety of other flowers of similar character, embellish these two gay Nos., and carry Mrs. Loudon most flourishingly on with her charming task.

*Every Lady her own Flower Gardener*, by Louisa Johnson (pp. 96, London, Orr), is a fair adviser in the way of cultivating flowers cheaply and neatly.

*Life of Sir Walter Scott*, Vol. IX. (Edinburgh, Cadell; London, Whittaker.)—The Gothic-looking entrance-hall of Abbotsford is the frontispiece, and a singular view of the dining-room (with a bed and some person lying in it) is the vignette. They are both beautifully engraved by W. Douglas, as well as painted with great force and truth by W. Allan.

*Historic Sites, and other Remarkable and Interesting Places in the County of Suffolk*, by John Wodderspoon. Pp. 300. (London, Longman and Co.; Ipswich, Pawsey.)—A considerable portion of these papers, we believe, have adorned the pages of the "Suffolk Literary Chronicle," for which they were peculiarly adapted; and the success which attended them in that locality having induced Mr. Wodderspoon to augment their number and collect the

\* "Faust;" a Tragedy by Goethe, translated in English verse by John Hills, Esq., small 4to., pp. 263, Whittaker and Co., which, after what we have said, calls for no particular remark.

† We observe, with pleasure, that the taste for acquiring this rich tongue, in which so many publications of the highest value are written, is gaining ground in England. At Cambridge, Mr. Eggestoff (of whose ardent cultivation of "Klopstock," and other zealous works, we have frequently spoken in praise) has been delivering a course of lectures with much success. The same, we trust, will attend his efforts in London; for he is a very meritorious individual, and his life devoted to the pursuit of German literature.



whole into the present form, we have the pleasure to say that the volume is one of very agreeable character. Without going deeply into antiquarian research or historic doubts, the writer has skimmed the surface agreeably to the most commonly received accounts and popular traditions; and thus produced a work, not only interesting to Suffolk, but acceptable to readers in other countries throughout broad England. The many castles, churches, ancient residences, ruined towns, and antiquarian remains, of every description of which he has treated, give great variety to his labours; and nine appropriate wood-engravings make the most curious aid to their value.

*A Comparative View of Ancient History, embracing a Sketch of the Contemporary History of the Nations of Antiquity: an Explanation of Chronological Eras, &c.* by J. Toulmin Smith. Pp. 123. (London, Soutley.)—On a good plan, and very fairly executed. We observe, however, some inaccuracies of expression; such, for instance, as saying that the "only reward" of Cain's fratricide was the perpetual stings of conscience—meaning thereby the only punishment.

*The Courtier of the Days of Charles II., with other Tales*, by Mrs. Gore. 8vo. pp. 364. (Paris, Galligani and Co.)—When noticing the author's more recent publication in our No. 1191, we ought to have mentioned this Paris edition of *The Courtier*, &c.—certainly not one of the least meritorious and clever of her productions. That we had not seen it in its London shape is one of the curiosities of publishing: a similar secrecy having been observed with regard to the "Flying Dutchman." Whether the latter feared criticism or not, we cannot tell; but the volume now before us undoubtedly needed not to entertain any apprehensions.

#### ARTS AND SCIENCES. LINNEAN SOCIETY.

MR. FORSTER in the chair. — Mr. Cuming exhibited specimens of the *Lagurus ovatus*, discovered by him about three years ago, two miles from Saffron Walden, Essex. Mr. Cuming has collected the plant in the same locality every year since, and he regards it as decidedly wild. The specimens exhibited were collected last summer; the station now mentioned is the only actual English locality for this elegant grass.—Read, 'Description of the *Curtala*, a plant of the family of *Bambusaceae*, of the culm of which the Indians prepare their Sarbains, or Blowpipes,' by M. Schomburgk. The plant belongs to a new species of the genus *Arundinaria*, and has been named *Arundinaria Schomburgkii*. These reeds grow in dense tufts, or clusters, of 50 to 100; the full-grown stem is at the base one inch and a half in diameter, or nearly five inches in circumference, of a bright green colour, perfectly smooth and hollow inside, and rises to the height of forty or fifty feet. The great object of M. Schomburgk's last expedition led him to the Far West. Near the river Emakuni, at a settlement inhabited by Indians, the first object which struck the writer on entering the miserable huts which served as dwellings was a large bundle of these reeds, some of which were sixteen feet long; this naturally caused the inquiry whence they came. The Guinai Indians, called by the Spaniards Maquivitaras, conducted M. Schomburgk and his party to that part of Marawacca (a high mountain, which terminates in almost a perpendicular wall of sandstone) where the plant grows. It is much valued, and is given in exchange for the Wourali poison manufactured by other tribes.

#### ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

DECEMBER 9. Mr. Greenough, F.R.S., President, in the chair.—Eight new members were elected.—Read extracts from the following papers:—1. 'An Outline of the Voyage of the French Ship-of-war *Astrolabe*, commanded by Captain Dumont d'Urville, in the Asiatic Archipelago, between February and June, 1839,' of which we had already abridged a notice from a Paris journal (see page 792).—2. 'Notes on a Tour through a Part of Kurdistan,' by James Brant, Esq. H.M. Consul at Erz-rüm. Quitting Erz-rüm on the 16th June, 1838, accompanied by Mr. A. G. Glascott,

R.N., and Dr. E. D. Dickson, Mr. Brant travelled in an eastern direction for about twenty miles, as far as Hassan Kaleh; thence, turning directly to the southward, the party continued, by Aghveran and Khinis Kaleh, to Mûsh. From this place they proceeded in a W.S.W. direction, to the southward of the valley of the Murad Chai, or Eastern Euphrates, by Nerjki and Piran, to the mines of Argana, on the western bank of the upper Tigris; thence in a north-west direction to the town of Kharput, the western limit of their journey: returning to the northward of the valley of Murad, they passed through Palû and Cheveh, and again reached Mûsh. Turning thence to the south-east, they proceeded to Bitlis and to Tatvan, on the south-western point of the lake of Van; continued around its southern shore by Vastan and Artemid to the town of Van, and then in a northerly direction round the north-eastern extremity of the lake, and by Ardish and the foot of Supan Tagh, along its northern shore to Aklar; thus making the entire circuit of the lake within about fifteen miles. Proceeding hence in a north-eastern course, they passed the sources of the Murad Chai, at an elevation of 6000 feet above the sea, and arrived at Bayazid at the south-western foot of Mount Ararat; thence, in a westerly direction, by Uch Kilissah, and the pass of Keusseh Tagh, and Hassan Kaleh, to Erz-rüm: thus completing a tour of about nine hundred miles, through a country imperfectly known and very incorrectly laid down on our maps; many important towns, as Mûsh, Bitlis, Palû, Kharput, &c., being placed from twelve to twenty miles in error in latitude. Throughout this journey the astronomical positions of all the principal places were determined, as well as their height barometrically above the sea, and the whole line of route correctly mapped by Mr. Glascott; shewing, among other changes, that the lake of Van must be extended nearly thirty miles to the north-east. "Mûsh," says Mr. Brant, "is a wretched town with a population of about 6000, of which 2500 are Armenians: it is situated on a fine plain, forty miles long by twelve broad; watered by numerous streams, yet in some parts stony and arid; it lies 4700 feet above the sea; and the climate is less severe than that of Erz-rüm. Kharput is situated on an eminence 1200 feet above the plain, which is one of the richest in the Turkish dominions. We found Hafiz Pasha here, who received us with every civility. This was the western limit of our journey. Returning to the eastward, we passed through Palû, a town of 5000 persons, chiefly employed in manufacturing cloth from native cotton. It is situated on the northern bank of the Murad Chai, 500 feet above the bed of the river, and 3500 above the sea. The valley of Bitlis runs north and south; a ravine opens into it from the west, another from the north-west, and a third from the east; and at their common point of junction the town is situated, at an elevation of 3150 feet above the sea. In its centre rises an abrupt rock to the height of sixty feet, on the summit of which are the ruins of a castle, the residence of the former beys of Bitlis. At its eastern base lie the bazars; while the streets, lining the banks of the stream which flows through the valley and the ravines, and extending up them, give an irregular form to the town, which covers a considerable area, on account of the gardens interspersed among the houses in the ravines. Bare limestone mountains rise on every side, about 2000 feet above the valley; and the bottoms of the ravines are

filled with orchards irrigated by numerous streams and springs. This antique-looking city, placed in so remarkable a situation, the severe character and great height of the mountains, and the cheerful vegetation of the valleys, viewed from the residence of Sherif Bey, combine to form a prospect as singular as interesting. The population consists of 15,000, one-third of which are Armenians. There are three mosques with minarets, and twelve chapels, belonging to Howling Dervishes; of which sect this city would appear to be the principal seat, from the number of its followers. The lake of Van covers a surface of about 900 square geographical miles; the water is salt; and it is situated 5470 feet above the level of the sea. We only observed six small trading craft upon it, chiefly employed in carrying cotton, grain, and timber. The town of Van, situated among orchards on the east side of the lake, contains about 35,000 inhabitants, nearly one-half of which are Armenians. The trade is inconsiderable. The lake abounds in fish; and we saw multitudes of cormorants, gulls, and other water-fowl. The rock on which the castle of Van is built is a long, narrow, isolated mass, rising three hundred feet above the plain; it extends about half a mile in a S.E. direction, and its south-western face is perpendicular; its breadth may be one hundred yards at the summit, on which stands the citadel. The whole is of hard compact limestone. By a special order from the pasha we were permitted to visit the castle, and examine its caves; but we could not discover either letters or paintings on the walls—they had probably been used as sepulchres. We visited the cuneiform inscriptions, well known to exist near Van; and the pasha expressed great anxiety to know if we could translate them.

"September 1.—Early this morning we commenced the ascent of the celebrated mountain of Supan Tagh, which rises on the northern shore of the lake full 4000 feet above its surface, and 9500 above the level of the sea. We rode up slowly for three and a half hours, till we reached the edge of the crater out of which the central cone rises. From this spot we proceeded on foot by the most difficult ascent I ever attempted, not only from its steepness, but from the oppression at the chest we all felt. We could not ascend more than five or six steps without stopping to take breath. At length, after four hours from leaving our horses, and seven hours and a half from the base, we reached one of the highest peaks overlooking the lake of Van, and planted our theodolite on its summit. The view from this spot was truly magnificent: at our feet the broad expanse of the lake of Van, more like a sea than a lake; in the distance we counted seven other small lakes; to the south were the ranges of Arjerosh and Erdosh; to the south-east the rock and citadel of Van; to the north the range of Mingöl, and the cone-like peak of Keusseh Tagh, above Toprak Kaleh, in the plain of Arishkert; while, in the north-eastern horizon, the beautiful peaks of the Great and Lesser Ararat, at a distance of eighty miles, were distinctly visible, their summits rising into the regions of eternal snow." Mr. Brant's paper was illustrated by a map, constructed by Mr. Glascott, on the scale of six inches to a degree, shewing the whole of their route; also by a section of the highland of Armenia, between Trebizond on the Black Sea, and Mûsul on the Tigris; a direct distance of three hundred and sixty geographical miles, shewing the remarkable features of that elevated plateau, which, for the greater part, preserves a level of 6000 feet above the sea, till towards its southern

end, when the mountains of Juwar Tagh, the strongholds of the Kurds and the Nestorian Christians, are said to reach an elevation of 15,000 feet, from whence the descent is almost abrupt to the low level of the plains of Mesopotamia.

#### GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

DECEMBER 4th. The Rev. Professor Buckland, D.D. President, in the chair. — A paper was first read, describing 'Some of the soft parts, and the shape of the hind fin of the Ichthyosaurus, as when recent,' by Richard Owen, Esq. — Mr. Owen commenced by observing that hitherto the exact shape and the nature of the soft parts of the paddle of the Ichthyosaurus have been matter of conjecture, the osseous frame-work having been alone the subject of direct observation. He then stated, that the deviation of these locomotive organs from the reptilian and mammalian types had been recognised, as well as their resemblance to the fins of fishes in the digits exceeding five; but it had been generally supposed, owing to the form of the digital ossicles, their breadth and flatness, and great size, as compared with the joints of the fin-rays of fishes, that they were enveloped in a smooth integument, which, as in the turtle and porpoise, had no other support than was afforded by the bones and ligaments within. The specimen which formed the subject of this communication, Mr. Owen considers to be the posterior fin of the *Ichthyosaurus communis*. It exhibits portions of six digits, and in a most distinct manner, the impression and a thin layer of the dark carbonised integument of the terminal half of the fin, the contour of which is thus most beautifully defined: — The anterior margin of the integument is formed by a smooth, unbroken, well-defined line, and appears to have been merely a duplication of the integument; but the whole of the posterior margin exhibits the remains or impressions of a series of rays, by which the fold was supported. Immediately posterior to the digital ossicles is a band of carbonaceous matter, varying from two to four lines in breadth, and extending in an obtusely pointed form for an inch and a half beyond the ossicles. This band Mr. Owen considers the remains of the dense ligamentous matter which immediately invested the bones of the paddle. Its fibrous structure is most distinctly displayed. The rays above-mentioned are continued from the posterior edge of the carbonised ligamentous matter to the edge of the tegumentary impression, the upper ones being directed more transversely, but the others gradually lie more in the direction of the axis of the fin as they approach its termination. The most interesting feature in these rays, Mr. Owen observed, is their bifurcating as they approach the edge of the fin. From the rarity of their preservation, their appearance and co-existence, in the present instance, with remains of the integument, it is evident that they were not osseous, but either cartilaginous, or of that albuminous hornlike tissue of which the marginal rays consist in the fins of the shark and other plagiostomous fishes. Besides the impression of the posterior marginal rays, the specimen exhibits a series of slightly projecting transverse lines, crossing the whole of the fin at intervals of about one-eighth of an inch; and Mr. Owen infers from their regularity, that the rigid integument was divided into scutiform compartments, analogous to those on the paddle of the turtle and webbed foot of the crocodile; but differing, in the absence of subdivision, by secondary longitudinal impressions. This character of the in-

tegument of the fin agrees, therefore, with the known reptilian structure of the Ichthyosaurus; and it might have been expected *à priori*, that the skin should agree in some respects with the integument of existing reptiles. In conclusion, Mr. Owen observed, that the other new points presented by the specimen under consideration equally accord with the affinities of the Ichthyosauri, afforded by its less perishable remains; and that all the deviations from the reptilian structure of the skeleton tend to the type of fishes, and not to that of the cetaceous mammalia; and, therefore, prepare us to receive with less surprise the evidence of a malacopterygian structure of the fin, afforded by the presence of a series of soft bifurcated rays in the posterior fold of the natatory integument. The interesting specimen which formed the subject of this communication was the property of Mr. Lee of Barrow-on-Soar; and its important peculiarities were detected by Sir Philip Egerton, during an examination of Mr. Lee's fossil saurian remains. — A paper was afterwards read, 'On as much of the great Grauwacke System as is comprised in the group of West Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall,' by the Rev. D. Williams. This communication is supplementary to one read in April last (see *Literary Gazette*, No. 1161), and gives the results of the author's latest investigations into the structure of Devonshire and Cornwall. In the previous paper, he stated that the sedimentary formations composing those counties consisted, in descending order, of No. 9, Floriferous slates (the culm measures of central Devon); No. 8, a series of beds, which he calls the Coddon Hill grits; and No. 7, Trilobite slates, forming the south of Devon and Cornwall. In the present communication, however, he states that he was wrong in considering the sedimentary mass of those districts as belonging to No. 7, recent observations having convinced him that it is composed of a separate formation more recent than No. 9; and which he proposes to range as No. 10, and to call Killas, or Cornish. According to this view, he considers the culm measures (No. 9) as a very old grauwacke system, and he places them below the limestones and slates of southern Devon and Cornwall, but above the newest strata of Exmoor. His reasons for proposing these changes are drawn from observations made at the following localities. Between Doddescombeleigh and Chudleigh the posidonia limestone, part of No. 8, is stated to be exhibited underlying a long series of alternations of Coddon Hill grits and floriferous rocks (No. 9) with intercalated killas; and these are said to dip under the Chudleigh limestones, which pass beneath the ridge of Ugbrook, considered by Mr. Williams as a part of the floriferous series. A similar order of succession is stated to be traceable, foot by foot, on the road by Gregleigh and descending to Waddon Barton. At Meedfort Sands the author says, there is a strange association, yet in regular stratified order, of Cornish clay-slate, buff-coloured, finely arenaceous strata, containing fossils, true floriferous grit, slates with culm, volcanic ash, and coral limestones, forming an anticlinal axis, which throws off the great mass of the Torquay limestone. To the east of Dartmoor, Mr. Williams has little doubt that similar alternations occur; and to the west of it, he mentions a line of country between Greeston Bridge, on the Tamar, and Heathfield, the neighbourhood of Tavistock, the shaft sunk in the copper lode on the road from that town towards Callington; also the vicinity of Climsland to the north of Callington, and the country thence to

Saltaash, more particularly a section near Pen-ter's Cross, as exhibiting proofs of the floriferous series passing beneath the slates and limestone of southern Devon and Cornwall. Mr. Williams is further of opinion, that his uppermost group, or No. 10, is distinguished from the strata composing the Quantocks in North Devon, by certain peculiarities in its physical structure. In the latter range of hills, the angle of cleavage of the slates is 10° or less, and the direction east and west; while, according to his observations, the cleavage of the killas coincides nearly with the true magnetic meridian, and the angle of inclination approaches 90°. Finally, Mr. Williams objects to conclusions respecting the relative age of formations deduced from organic remains, preferring those drawn from mineral composition; and he protests against the attempt to prove the geological structure of Devonshire and Cornwall by reference to that of any other country.

#### ELECTRICAL SOCIETY.

TUESDAY, 17th December. — Read, 'Letters from D. Samo, Esq. Judge at Surinam, addressed to Mr. Hawkins, and to Mr. Cameron, Berberce, respecting the living specimens of *Gymnotus Electricus*, procured for Mr. Hawkins, to be presented to the Electrical Society.' Five of these singular animals had arrived at Berberce in a most lively and healthy state, and had been transhipped to England, where the vessel conveying them has come in safety; but up to Tuesday no account of the condition of her live freight had been received. No expense had been spared, every requisite for their sustenance, and instructions for their treatment, had been supplied. The liberal and praiseworthy conduct of Mr. Hawkins in this affair well deserves publicity and approval. When at Berberce, the cask in which the gymnoti lived was lifted to be conveyed ashore; so vigorous were its electrical occupants, that the shock given by them, being disturbed, knocked two men down. Many interesting results are expected to be derived, and data established, by the experiments to be conducted with Mr. Hawkins's valuable present. The natives and negroes of South America state that these animal wonders are excellent food. Mr. Samo expressed his intention of having one cooked, and tasting to the proof. — Read, also, 'An Account of some Experiments made with the view of repeating and extending those of the late Professor Nobili, on the Production, by Electro-Chemical Means, of coloured Films on the Surface of Metallic Plates,' by Mr. Gassiot. By the precipitation of the peroxide of lead on steel plates, placed in a solution of the acetate of that metal, and connected with the positive pole of a constant battery, the most beautiful effects were obtained. Every tint of Nobili's series of colours, or chromatic scale, was developed, comprising forty-four shades. It is scarcely necessary to remark that this great variety of colour depends upon the thickness of the film (metallic in this instance), which, in its gradation, transmits some, and reflects other rays of light. If it be supposed that the millionth of an inch is the unit, the first colour on the list, silver blond, will be four of these units, and the last, or thickest, but thirty of the same. Upon a similar course depends the diversity of colour in that philosophical plaything the soap-bubble, as also the phenomena known as Newton's rings. In the latter case the films are air, and the thinnest or central film which transmits all the rays of light is



black. The films of the peroxide were arranged by Mr. Gassiot in any form he pleased, exhibiting a variety of figures. The shape of the negative electrode altered the effect. When composed of a ring of platinum, or other metallic wire, the colours will radiate from the inner as well as the outer line. To obtain a clear and decided figure, it is advisable to use a thin piece of muslin to prevent actual contact; it may be placed on either electrode. The nearer the electrodes approximate, the more distinct will be the result and the lines more clearly defined. An almost instantaneous connexion with the battery is sufficient for the beautiful effect. It is impossible to describe the exceeding beauty of the appearance as the colours progressively start forth, the rapid succession of the most gorgeous tints. Whether the effects thus produced will be applied, as Mr. Gassiot observes, to ornamental cutlery, time will determine. Any patterns may be produced with ease by wire sewn with strong thread on a card, the whole forming the negative electrode of the battery. Those in which there is least interference in the lines will be the most clearly defined.

#### LITERARY AND LEARNED. UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

CAMBRIDGE, December 11th.—The Norrisian prize was adjudged to D. Moore, of Catherine Hall, for his essay on the following subject:—"The Divine Origin of the Holy Scriptures may be inferred from their perfect adaptation to the circumstances of Human Nature."

The following degrees were conferred:—  
Doctor in Medicine.—R. W. Rothman, Fellow of Trinity College.

Masters of Arts.—H. H. Lewis, W. H. Rough, Trinity College; M. Hutton, G. S. Edwin, Catherine Hall; R. W. Beauchamp, R. M. Lingwood, Christ's College; W. S. Hore, J. Abbot, Queen's College.

Bachelor in the Civil Law.—J. H. Prockett, Trinity Hall.

#### ROYAL SOCIETY.\*

The President's Address, continued from our last.

In drawing up the following notice of the losses which the Royal Society has sustained during the last year, in conformity with the practice of my predecessors, I have availed myself of the assistance of one of the fellows, whose acquaintance with the labours of men of science peculiarly qualified him for the execution of a task which I could not myself have ventured to undertake. I, therefore, will not longer occupy your time by any further remarks of my own, but will conclude by the expression of my present wishes for the prosperity of the Royal Society, and for its success in furthering the noble ends for which it was instituted.—The Rev. Martin Davy was originally a member of the medical profession, which he followed, during a great part of his life, with no inconsiderable reputation. He became a medical student of Caius College in 1787, and was elected to a fellowship in 1793, and to the mastership in 1803, the late illustrious Dr. Wollaston being one of his competitors. One of the first acts of his administration was to open his college to a more large and liberal competition, by the abolition of some mischievous and unstatutable restrictions, which had been sanctioned by long custom, and also by making academical merit and honours the sole avenue to college preferment: and he lived to witness the complete success of this wise and liberal measure, in the rapid increase of the number of high academical honours which were gained by members of his college, and by the subsequent advancement of many of them to the highest professional rank and eminence. Some years after his accession to the master-

ship he took holy orders, and commuted the degree of doctor in medicine for that of theology; and in later life he was collated to some considerable ecclesiastical preferments. Dr. Davy had no great acquaintance with the details of accurate science, but he was remarkable for the extent and variety of his attainments in classical and general literature. His conversation was eminently lively and original, and not less agreeable from its occasional tendency to somewhat paradoxical, though generally harmless, speculations. He died in May last, after a long illness, deeply lamented by a large circle of friends, to whom he was endeared by his many social and other virtues.

—Dr. Herbert Marsh, bishop of Peterborough, and one of the most acute and learned theologians of his age, became a member of St. John's College in the University of Cambridge in the year 1775, and took his B.A. degree in 1779, being second in the list of wranglers, which was headed by his friend and relation, Mr. Thomas Jones, a man whose intellectual powers were of the highest order, and who for many years filled the office of tutor of Trinity College with unequalled success and reputation. Soon after his election to a fellowship, he went to Germany, where he devoted himself during many years to theological and general studies, and first became known to the public as the translator and learned commentator of Michaelis's "Introduction to the New Testament." It was during his residence abroad that he published, in the German language, various tracts in defence of the policy of his own country in the continental wars, and more particularly a very elaborate "History of the Politics of Great Britain and France, from the time of the Conference at Pilnitz to the Declaration of War;" a work which produced a marked impression on the state of public opinion in Germany, and for which he received a very considerable pension on the recommendation of Mr. Pitt. In 1807, he was elected Lady Margaret's Professor of Divinity in the University of Cambridge; an appointment of great value and importance, which he retained for the remainder of his life. On the resumption of his residence in the university, he devoted himself with great diligence to the preparation of his lectures on various important branches of divinity, interposing a great number of occasional publications on the Catholic question, the Bible Society, and various other subjects of political and theological controversy. In 1816, he was appointed Bishop of Llandaff; and three years afterwards he was translated to the see of Peterborough. In the course of a few years from this time, his health, which had been already undermined by his sedentary habits and severe studies, began rapidly to decline, and he was compelled to abstain from the active duties of his professorship, and from the exciting labours of controversy; and though his infirmities continued to increase both in number and severity, yet his life was prolonged to a mature old age by the vigilant and anxious care and nursing of one of the most exemplary and affectionate of wives. Dr. Marsh was a man of great learning and very uncommon vigour of mind; and, as a writer, remarkable for the great precision of his language, and his singular clearness in the statement of his argument. His lectures on divinity are a most valuable contribution to the theological student, and his "Comparative View of the Churches of England and Rome," presents one of the most masterly views of the great principles which distinguish those

churches, which has ever appeared from the pen of a Protestant writer. His controversial writings, though generally full of acuteness and ability, must be expected to share the fate of all productions which are not kept from perishing by the permanent existence of the interests, of whatever nature, which gave rise to them: and we may justly lament that learning and powers of reasoning of so extraordinary a character were not more exclusively and steadily devoted to the completion of more durable and systematic theological labours.—The father of the late Professor Rigaud had the care of the King's Observatory at Kew, an appointment which probably influenced the early tastes and predilections of his son. He was admitted a member of Exeter College, Oxford, in 1791, at the early age of sixteen; and continued to reside there as fellow and tutor until 1810, when he was appointed Savilian Professor of Geometry. He afterwards succeeded to the care of the Radcliffe Observatory; and the noble suite of instruments by Bird, with which it is furnished, was augmented, on his recommendation, by a new transit and circle, so as to fit it for the most refined purposes of modern practical astronomy. And we venture to express a hope that it will shortly become equally efficient and useful with the similar establishment which exists in the sister university. Professor Rigaud published, in 1831, the miscellaneous works and correspondence of Bradley, to which he afterwards added a very interesting supplement on the astronomical papers of Harriott. In 1838, he published some curious notices of the first publication of the "Principia" of Newton; and he had also projected a life of Halley, with a view of rescuing the memory of that great man from much of the obloquy to which it has been exposed. He had made extensive collections for a new edition of the mathematical collections of Pappus; and he was the author of many valuable communications to the "Transactions of the Royal Astronomical Society," and to other scientific journals, on various subjects connected with physical and astronomical science. There was probably no other person of his age who was equally learned on all subjects connected with the history and literature of astronomy. Professor Rigaud was a man of most amiable character, and of singularly pleasing manners and person. The warmth of his affections, his modesty, gentleness, and love of truth, as well as the great variety of his acquirements and accomplishments, had secured him the love and the respect of a large circle of friends, not merely in his own university, but amongst men of science generally. He died in London in March last, after a short but painful illness, which he bore with a fortitude and resignation which might have been expected from his gentle, patient, and truly Christian character.—Mr. Wilkins, Professor of Architecture to the Royal Academy, became a member of Caius College, Cambridge, in 1796, and took the degree of B.A. in 1800, his name standing sixth on the mathematical tripos. He was soon afterwards nominated one of Worr's travelling bachelors, and also a fellow of his college, and passed four years in Greece and Italy, studying the architectural remains and monuments of those countries with great diligence, preparatory to the practice of his profession as an architect, which his father had followed with credit, and for which his great skill as a draftsman particularly qualified him. The study of those matchless creations of ancient art would appear to have exercised a powerful

\* There was a slight misprint in our report last week; Mr. Robertson, not Robertson, is the gentleman so justly lauded by the noble President.

influence on his taste, and to have led him to prefer the purer forms of Grecian architecture to the more varied imitations and adaptations of them which appeared in the works of the Romans or in those of the great masters of modern Italy and more particularly of Palladio; and the influence of these predilections was sufficiently visible in his designs for the East India College, at Haileybury, and for Downing College, Cambridge, and is more or less easily traceable in most of his subsequent works. In 1807, he published his "Antiquities of Magna Græcia," a magnificent work, containing descriptions, views, measurements, and restorations of the chief remains of Syracuse, Agrigentum, Ægesta, and Paestum. At a subsequent period he published "Atheniensia; or, Remarks on the Buildings of Athens," in which he expressed opinions unfavourable to those commonly entertained respecting the rank which the Elgin marbles, which had been only recently purchased by the nation, should be considered to hold when viewed as works of art: he was likewise the author of a translation of the "Civil Architecture of Vitruvius," including those books which relate to the public and private edifices of the ancients, which was preceded by a learned introduction on the history of the rise and progress of Grecian Architecture,—a work which was chiefly designed to shew that the precepts of Vitruvius referred to Grecian and not to Roman buildings. The publication of these works and of some essays in the "Archæologia," which shewed a profound knowledge of the principles both of Grecian and Gothic architecture, led to very extensive professional engagements, particularly in the University of Cambridge, where he rebuilt Corpus Christi and King's Colleges, and made extensive additions to Trinity College: he was likewise the author of the magnificent portico of London University College, the National Gallery, and of other important edifices in London. He was latterly compelled by the declining state of his health, and by repeated attacks of the gout, to retire from his professional engagements, though he did not abandon those studies which had formed his delight and occupation from his earliest years. In 1837, he published his "Prolusiones Architectonicæ; or, Essays on subjects connected with Grecian and Roman Architecture," which were designed, in some degree, as a substitute for those lectures, which, under other circumstances, he would have been called upon to deliver, as professor of architecture, to the students of the Royal Academy. During the last year of his life, though constantly confined to his bed, and extremely weakened and emaciated by disease, he still continued his favourite pursuits until within a few days of his death, which took place on the last day of August last.—The Rev. Archibald Alison, senior Minister of St. Paul's Chapel, Edinburgh, was born in 1757, became a member of the University of Glasgow in 1772, and of Balliol College, Oxford, in 1775, and took the degree of B.C.L. in 1784. He soon afterwards took holy orders in the English Church, and was presented to several ecclesiastical preferments by Sir William Pulteney, Lord Chancellor Loughborough, and Bishop Douglas of Salisbury. In 1784, he married the daughter of the celebrated Dr. John Gregory, of Edinburgh, with whom he lived in uninterrupted happiness for forty years of his life. His celebrated "Essay on the Nature and Principles of Taste" was first published in 1790, and speedily became incorporated into the standard literature of Great Britain. Towards the close of the last century, he became a permanent resident

in his native city as minister of the Episcopal Chapel, Cowgate, and afterwards of St. Paul's, where he was connected by congenial tastes and pursuits with Dugald Stewart, Playfair, Dr. Henry Mackenzie, Dr. Gregory, and the many other distinguished men who, during so many years, made that beautiful and picturesque city the metropolis of British literature. In 1814, he published two volumes of sermons; and at a later period, a very interesting memoir of his accomplished friend the Hon. Fraser Tytler, Lord Woodhouselee. Mr. Alison was a man of very pleasing and refined manners, of great cheerfulness and equanimity of temper, of a clear and temperate judgment, and possessing a very extensive knowledge of mankind. He was habitually pious and humble-minded, exhibiting in the whole tenor of his life, the blessed influence of that Gospel of which he was the ordained minister. All his writings are characterised by that pure and correct taste, the principles of which he had illustrated with so much elegance and beauty.

[To be concluded next week.]

#### ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

DECEMBER 7th. Sir G. T. Staunton, in the chair.—Donations to the library and museum of the Society were presented, &c. The Honorary Secretary stated that he held in his hand the report of a meeting of the Bombay branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, which was attended by Sir James R. Carnac, Bart. the present patron of that branch. The Secretary then read the report, which comprised the address of Sir James in accepting the office of Patron; in the course of which he assured the Society of his conviction that the Bombay branch had essentially aided the Royal Asiatic Society in giving a stimulus to Asiatic literature in Europe, and in reviving a taste for investigations connected with the East. This was followed by an address from the President of the Institution, detailing its objects, the progress it had already made in carrying them into effect, and the full expectation it entertained, from the well-known character of the new patron, that those objects would now be more rapidly developed than at any past period of its existence.—Mr. E. Solly read a paper 'On East Indian Opium.' After adverting to the measures lately taken by the Chinese government to prevent the future importation of opium into that country, the author stated, that as the continuation of the prohibition would of necessity put an end to the opium trade in that quarter, endeavours would be made to find a market for it in other countries; and that, therefore, good East Indian opium would be probably brought to England. Not many years ago this opium was always considered, and described, as being the lowest and most inferior in quality of any in the market. Latterly, however, it had been increasing in reputation; and some sorts had been classed among the best kinds of opium. But the quality varied; and some sorts, from containing a very large proportion of impurities, were of comparatively little value. Great influence was also exerted on the quality of opium by the weather: the presence or absence of clouds, the quantity of dew, the time the juice is kept before being formed into cakes, and many other causes, greatly affected the goodness of the article. Mr. Solly observed, that the opium prepared for the Chinese market contained scarcely any earthy impurities or foreign matters, and suggested as one of the causes why the Chinese preferred Malwa to many other kinds of opium, was

that it contained less caoutchouc and gelatin; and therefore yielded a larger percentage of the watery extract, which is used by the Chinese smokers, and called smokable extract. He then detailed a chemical examination he had recently made of some varieties of Indian opium, particularly that from Malwa, from which it appeared that it might enter into competition with some of the best varieties. Mr. Solly concluded with a sketch of the process adopted in Malwa for the cultivation of the poppy and the manufacture of opium.—A paper by Dr. Stevenson, of Bombay, 'On the Ante-Brahminical Worship of the Hindus,' was next read. This was the third paper of a series on the same subject, two of which have been already printed in the Society's "Journal." The author said, that in his former papers he had shewn his reasons for supposing that the worship of those objects, whom the Brahmins denominated demons, was anterior to Brahminism; and he now stated that he believed the festival of the Holi, and the worship of Mhasobâ, to belong to the same class. The festival of the Holi is celebrated about the opening of the year, and is attended with the most obscene orgies. Persons, who at other times are patters of propriety, now use the filthiest language, disgusting pictures and figures are paraded through the streets, dirt is thrown upon every body that passes; business is at a stand, and all is riot and confusion. For the worship of the goddess, a large hole is made in the ground, which is then filled with wood and covered with cow-dung. In this hole a tree is planted, generally a castor-oil tree, grass is heaped round it, offerings of cocoa-nut and other matters are made, prayers are recited, and the whole is then set fire to. An evident connexion existed between this and the May-pole of our ancestors, which was not quite discontinued in some remote parts of England. The mention of this suggested another coincidence between the religious customs of the Mahrattas and those of our ancestors. It was the practice of the former to bind up a quantity of new grain in harvest time, generally rice and bajry, to adorn it with leaves and flowers, and to put it up over the doors of their houses. The same was done by the English, with this only difference, that the grain was spread out on the lintels of the doors. The god Mhasobâ, who is much laughed at by the Brahmins, is a natural *linga*: it is any rounded stone of a large size, found in a field. This is painted over with red lead, and it then becomes a god, receiving offerings of cocoa-nuts, fowls, or goats, according to the ability of the worshipper. The writer strongly suspected the whole worship of the *linga* to be ante-Brahminical. The Lingayets hate, and are hated by, the Brahmins; they neglect their rules of purification, have priests of their own, and are called by the Brahmins "adherents of a false religion." In the worship of the five principal divinities, the person who dressed the image in the form of the *linga* is a Sudra, and not a Brahmin. These and several other circumstances, lead him to suppose this worship ante-Brahminical; although until the Linga-Purana has been fully investigated, he would not be positive on the point. The paper concluded with the names of several other gods worshipped in the Dekkan, not found in the Brahminical theology.—Two extracts from a journal by Capt. G. L. Jacob, of the Bombay army, were then read: the first, 'On the Process of Iron Smelting in the Mahabaleswar Hills;' and the other, 'On the alleged Rise of a Sacred River in the same quarter.' The iron

smelting is conducted in the most primitive way imaginable. The ore is dug from pits twenty or thirty feet deep, and is in appearance like a rough gravel. The furnace is a hole in the earth lined with charcoal, and fitted with a clay oven: the bellows are two goatskins worked alternately by the hand, and terminating in a clay pipe which forms the nozzle. About three hours are required to smelt twelve seers of ore, producing about five seers and a half of a rough, drossy, impure iron, which loses about two seers more in being worked up to its destined form. This iron sells in the bazars for a quarter of a rupee (less than a penny) per pound; and better English iron finds its way to these hills at the same price, or even cheaper. The sacred river is the Bhagiri, which once in twelve years adds its waters to those of the Kristna, Yona, Koyna, Sawitri, and Gawitri—"for the edification of the multitude, and benefit of the Brahmins." Captain Jacob describes this as a clumsy trick: no one but the priest is admitted into the holy place whence the river is said to issue; but all are allowed to purify themselves with the united waters proceeding from the mouth of Mahadeva's Sacred Bull. The Captain, so far from testifying to the increase of the stream, avers that he has never seen it in former years so small as at this time (February 1839); "so easily," he says, "is this simple people led by priestcraft."—The last paper read was the translation of a Sanscrit inscription found near Palitana in Kattywar; and which had been deciphered and read by James Prinsep, Esq. It was a grant of land to a Brahmin, but bore no other date than that of the year of the grantor's reign.

## SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

DECEMBER 19. Mr. Hudson Gurney, V.P. in the chair.—Mr. J. Gage Rokewood exhibited an exceedingly beautiful Psalter, now the property of Mr. Weld, of Luttworth, which was evidently formed for that eminent patron of the arts, John, duke of Bedford, regent of France. It is a rival in splendour to the celebrated Bedford Missal: the larger illuminations represent the principal events in the life of the Psalmist; and there is a great profusion of medallion heads occurring in almost every page, among which several portraits have been recognised.—Mr. Herbert Smith produced a series of drawings, most accurately finished, of ancient paintings lately discovered on the walls of the church of Barrefton, in Kent, and supposed to be coeval with the Norman architecture of that remarkable fabric, and of the age of Henry II.—The reading of Mr. Birch's 'Explanation of the Hieroglyphics on an Egyptian Tomb' was partially pursued, and the meetings of the Society were then adjourned to January.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS  
FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Tuesday.—Zoological, 8 P.M.  
Thursday.—Numismatic, 7 P.M.  
Saturday.—Westminster Medical, 8 P.M.; Mathematical, 8 P.M.; Physical, 8 P.M.

## FINE ARTS.

*Curious Discovery.*—A strange lesson has just been read to antiquaries and virtuosi, by a remarkable discovery in the British Museum. The famous Portland Vase, the pride of ancient, and wonder of modern art,—the theme of many an essay, and many a panegyric, has let in a new light upon the fictile representations of antiquity. A few weeks ago it was deemed necessary to wash this noble relic, in order to remove the accumulated dust of ages; when, lo! almost every figure was found to

be designated by an inscription, and the purport and procession of the whole vase (we believe) to be thereby explained! We have not yet had an opportunity of examining this memorable revelation, but can state that the theories of the late Mr. Payne Knight and Mr. Christie are utterly overturned by the facts now ascertained. When we consider how admirably these theories were made out, and how satisfactory they appeared to be, need we repeat that this is a strange lesson to antiquaries and virtuosi?

## NEW PUBLICATIONS.

*Findens' Female Aristocracy of Great Britain.*  
Nos. IX. and X.

Of the six beautiful, elegant, and dignified subjects which are the embellishments of these two numbers, our favourites are "Lady Ingestrie," painted by H. Bostock, engraved by W. and T. Holl; "Lady Sarah Villiers" (very much resembling a well-known female head by Titian), engraved by W. H. Gliton, from a picture by Sir W. I. Newton; and the "Duchess of Beaufort," engraved by W. H. Mote, from a picture by A. E. Chalon, R.A.

*Hound Hard Pressed.* Painted by F. C. Turner; Engraved by E. and G. Treacher. Ackermann and Co.

A MOST spiritedly depicted animal, engraved in line, with a freedom, vigour, and taste, that do the artists the highest credit.

*Elementary Drawing-Book of Landscapes and Buildings.* By Samuel Prout, F.S.A. Tilt.

A VOLUME full of excellent examples, well calculated to imbue a novice in the art with that firmness and precision of style for which Mr. Prout himself is so highly distinguished.

*The Ornamental Designs of Watteau, Painter to Louis XIV.* No. I. Collected from his Works, and Lithographed by W. Nichol. Edinburgh, Black; London, Ackermann and Co.

*De gustibus non est disputandum.* We confess that, notwithstanding the high name of Watteau, we see little beauty or elegance in these designs. They appear to us to be meagre, unmeaning, and in some instances absurd. Whoever visits "The National School of Design," will see that our young ornamental designers are imbibing the principles of a much richer, and, at the same time, purer taste.

## SKETCHES.

*A Short account of the loss of His Majesty's ship the Royal George, by William Gill one of the Survivors at Spithead August 29th 1782 under the Command of Admiral Kempenfeldt and Capt Waghorne.\**

SIR,—I can give you a short account how I came to be on Board the Royal George and the Occasion of her loss also the state in which I left her, — In the American war I was bound an apprentice to sea for five Years (in the coal and East country trade) before My time was near out they brok out from all Protections I was pressed and sent on board the Tender at the tower and next day sent down to Conquestadore at the Nore the recving ship at that Time, In a few days I was drafted on board the Amazon Frigate of 32 guns the Hon-

\* Of late we have seen several letters in the newspapers, inquiring about and specifying survivors from the wreck of the Royal George. As a literary and biographical curiosity, we have the pleasure to insert a letter (verbatim et literatim) from one of them, not previously heard of, a very worthy old man, whose account of the loss is of itself curious and interesting.—*Ed. L. G.*

orable William Clement Finch Captain laying a Sheariness We went first on a Cruise to the North sea, soon after on the West India Station when we met with Hurrican in Oct. 1780 we lost all our Masts and about 28 Men and 2 women being Obliged to heave all our lee guns overboard with a great deal of trouble we got into English Harbour Antigua where we Underwent Repairs, Captain Finch there changed Ships with Captain Bickerton late Admiral, who brought the Ship home when we Arrived at plymouth the Royal George was nearly ready to come out of dock I was then drafted on Board the R<sup>d</sup> George and went on a Cruise of Brest & C<sup>r</sup> — On board a Cestern Fixed under the Orlop deck for water to wash the two lower gun decks a hand pump was fixed in the Middle gun deck the pipe that let the water Through from the Ship side was stopped up for many weeks at the time we jouined the Grand Fleet at Spithead of 36 sail of the line — The Officers on board thought they could Careen her to Let the pipe come out of the water to clear it but having the Larboard lower deck guns run out and the ports being open the water came so fast that she Soon past her Bearings—My Humble opinion is that if the lower deck guns had run in and thrown Fore and aft and the ports barred in all would have been right,—I was on the Middle gun deck when she began to sink but was soon on the Main deck and went through a port hole under the Mainchains on the Starboard side I sat there untill she was almost full of water the people being so Crowded in that part it was impossible to make way, I being a good swimmer I and one of the Officers jumped of the Starbord quarter gallery and swam on Board the Victory Admiral Howe a few days afterwards I was drafted on board the Reuby 64 Sir John Collins Commander and sailed with the fleet To relive Gibraltar after that eight sail of Us was Drafted for the west Indies and Cruised untill the Packet of peace arrived, the later end of the Year 1783 from thence we came home and was Paid off at Portsmouth the day the ship was lost I was 19 years and three Months old—next Aug<sup>r</sup> 76 and three &c. &c.

WILLIAM GILL.

## THE DRAMA.

THE only dramatic novelty since our last has been the production of *Der Freischütz* at Drury Lane, with a well-judged adherence to the music of Weber. On Saturday, we found the theatre filled, and had but an indifferent position to judge critically of the opera: but we were consoled by the idea, that, though inconvenient for us, it was good for the management; and we were really pleased once more to see a bumper audience at Drury Lane. Taken altogether, the piece was more than respectably performed, and the general effect languished only in a few places. This arose partially from the *Caspar*, Mr. H. Phillips, appearing to be somewhat indisposed: and too much being thrown upon the shoulders of the young and yet unsustained powers of the heroine, Miss Delcy. Not that she did not exert herself, and acquit herself with great sweetness and talent; but such pieces as the long *scena* opening the second act, after her efforts in the first, were too much for her physical strength, and consequently weaker than could be desired in such a composition. This "long *scena*," by the by, was followed by another still longer, by *Anna*, Madame Pilati, which was most correctly given, and confirmed what we formerly noticed of the



perfect musical execution of this *petite* lady, whose voice, if not rich, is of extensive compass, and enabled her, not only to acquit herself well in this instance, but even more pleasingly in the duet of the first act, and the charming air "If a Youth should meet a Maiden." Perhaps we ought not to call any songstress a *petite* lady, but by the side of Mrs. Powell (we think) the contrast was amusing; and we thought of the wren, as well as the thrush, being a bird of song. *Marian* was very pretty, as Miss Pettifer always is; and Miss Delcy looked graceful and ladylike in the innocent *Agatha*. Mr. Frazer, as *Rudolf*, sang the part well throughout, and in several passages delighted us with the sweetness of his notes. *Kilian* was performed by Duruset, who, combining humour and musical talents together, was an excellent representative of the ranger's kinsman; and Mr. Howell put all the spirit requisite into the character of *Zamiel*. The stage appointments and supernatural phenomena (with the exception, perhaps, of a shower of red fire at the seventh bullet) were very indifferent; and we remark this the more pointedly because the bills assured the public they would be the reverse.

#### VARIETIES.

**Progress of Science.**—The Pasha of Egypt, at the request of the Royal Society, has ordered an Observatory to be erected on the Island of Boulac, under the superintendence of Mr. Lambert, the Director of the School of Engineers. This will co-operate with the meteorological and magnetical experiments recently undertaken on so extended a scale, and help to complete the series in so many quarters of the globe, for which our government has sent out the expedition under Capt. James Ross, as recommended by the British Association.

**African Expedition to the Niger.**—The details of this intended expedition not having been yet settled, we have abstained from any notice of it. We observe, however, that it is mentioned in the newspapers, and shall for the present merely state, that active preparations are in daily progress to provide for all that its scientific and commercial objects may render necessary; that the discoveries of the Brothers (we lament to add, the Martyrs) Richard and John Lander, are to be followed out; that Captain Allen, R.N., the friend and companion of Richard in his last voyage, and a gentleman of the highest attainments for such an enterprise, a beautiful draughtsman, with experience of the country, and well versed in the practical sciences, is appointed to the service; and that the vessels will proceed on their destination in the autumn of next year.

**Scientific Honours.**—Diplomas of corresponding members have been conferred on our countrymen, Faraday, R. Phillips (secretary to the British Association), and Dr. Golding Bird, by the celebrated Philosophical Institute of Basle.

**Mr. Minasi's Pen and Ink Drawings.**—We have frequently been called on to notice with much praise the copies of celebrated pictures by this most zealous votary of the fine arts, whose productions are unique, and as beautiful as they are curious. He has just finished a copy of Vandyke's admirable Piper, from the Choisen collection, and in the possession of Miss Tate, of Grosvenor Place; and we were surprised to see a *chef-d'œuvre* of this great master transferred to a different substance, and represented through another medium, which so entirely preserved the character of the original. There is a breadth

in the portrait, and a keeping in all the parts, which it is difficult to believe could be effected by pen and ink, however artistically and skillfully employed. Mr. Minasi is, indeed, most deserving of the patronage of the friends of patient industry, combined with enthusiastic talent.

**Antique Artillery.**—Some curious relics of ancient English artillery and ammunition have recently been discovered upon the western shore of the Isle of Walney, Lancashire, buried in the sand and clay, at a place only accessible at low water. They consist of a gun, ten feet in length; the breech in the centre, so as to fire both ways; with two rings near the muzzles to sling it by. This piece is formed of thick plates of iron, hooped. Other guns, and stone balls of different sizes; a pair of bronze compasses of curious construction, some old swords, a buckle, and a number of other articles.

**New Comet.**—A new comet is announced to have been discovered in the constellation Virgo by M. Galle, assistant at the Berlin Observatory, on the morning of the 3d instant, on which day the observations were as follow:—

Sidereal Time, Berlin.	Right Ascension of Comet.	Declination of Comet.
h m s	h m s	° ' "
11 1 14	12 38 25.18	
11 9 42	12 38 26.96	-2° 10' 22"
11 21 45	12 38 32.38	-2 10 13.9
11 0 39	12 38 39.63	-2 9 57.3

Daily variation, +2° 12' declination, +0° 19'.

In the year 1831 the King of Denmark had caused a gold medal to be cast, to be given to the first discoverer of a comet not visible to the naked eye; and it is somewhat singular that this discovery took place only three hours previously to the king's death.

**Oxford Society for Promoting the Study of Gothic Architecture.**—At a meeting of this Society, a paper 'On Stanton Harcourt Church, Oxfordshire,' was read by E. E. Estcourt, Esq. B.A. of Exeter College. This church is a very fine and interesting one, its plan cruciform, the nave in the Norman style of the twelfth century, the chancel and transepts in the early English style of the thirteenth century, and a good specimen of this style. Across the entrances to the chancel is a wooden screen, in the same style with this part of the building, of the thirteenth century, and believed to be almost unique. Unfortunately, it is painted sky-blue, which is probably the cause that it has not previously been noticed. On the north side of the chancel is a very curious structure, supposed to be a holy sepulchre, with a rich canopy of the fourteenth century. On it are the usual emblems, or representations, of the implements of the crucifixion; and at the four angles of the canopy, the four evangelists. The altar-screen is of Grecian woodwork, in detestably bad taste, which ought to be removed. It is hoped that the Archbishop of York, to whom the chancel belongs, will cause it to be restored to its original beauty. On the south side of the chancel is the Harcourt aisle or chapel, with several fine monuments of that family. The remains of the manor-house adjoining to the church are about the end of the fifteenth century. The kitchen, with its smoke-louvre, and without chimneys, is curious; somewhat resembling the celebrated abbot's kitchen at Glastonbury. These two are believed to be the only specimens of the kind now remaining. Several drawings, illustrative of this paper, were handed round. Books were presented, and new members elected. After the meeting, some very beautiful drawings of the rich Norman sculptures in Kilpeck church, Herefordshire, were shown by Mr.

Lewis, who gave some explanations of the symbolic language of these sculptures.—*Oxford Herald*.

#### LITERARY NOVELTIES.

Among interesting publications in progress, we observe one of a splendid class connected with the geology and natural products of a region yet little known to Europe, namely, — Twelve Views in the Interior of Guiana (and Woodcuts), with descriptive letters, by Robert H. Schomburgk, Esq., whose celebrity, extensive as it is, can hardly be said to be equal to his talents. The expedition which these views illustrate was carried on under the direction of the Royal Geographical Society, and partly at the expense of her majesty's government. It occupied the years 1835 to 1839; during which period, not only the colony of British Guiana, but also the adjacent territories of Venezuela, Brazil, and Surinam, were more or less explored. Towards its close, the author connected his travels with those of Von Humboldt, at Emeralda; Humboldt reached this point from the west, by ascending the river Orinoco, in the year 1800; Mr. Schomburgk from the east, by the Essequibo and the Sierra Pacaraima. The views were taken at the most picturesque spots, many of which were never before visited by any European; they have been drawn, from the original sketches, by Mr. Bentley, preparatory to being lithographed; and the specimens we have examined are not only beautiful, but give the best idea of tropical scenery, climate, and characteristics, we have ever seen. The work is announced in imperial folio, and by subscription, as it is rather too expensive for individual enterprise.

#### In the Press.

**Manners and Customs of the New Zealanders**, by J. S. Polack, Esq. with numerous woodcuts.—A new edition of the History of British India, by the late James Mill, Esq. with Notes and Illustrations, and a Continuation of the History, by H. H. Wilson, Esq. M.A. F.R.S. &c. Major Sir William Lloyd's Narrative of a Journey from Campoo to the Boorendo Pass, in the Himalaya Mountains, via Gwalior, Agra, Delhi, and Sirhind: with Captain Alexander Gerard's Account of an Attempt to penetrate by Behkur to Garoo, and the Lake Mansarowara, &c. with large map. Edited by George Lloyd.—An Outline of a System of Natural History, by the Rev. George Crabbe, Vicar of Brethfield.

#### LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

The Works of the Rev. Sydney Smith, Vol. IV. 8vo. 12s.—First Lines of the Theory and Practice of Surgery, by S. Cooper, 7th edition, 8vo. 18s.—Baydon's Art of Valuing Rents and Tillages, 6th edition, rewritten and enlarged by J. Donaldson, 8vo. 10s. 6d.—Arzoo's Life of Watt, 3rd edition, 12mo. 4s. 6d.—R. Middleton's Introductory Lecture on the Eye, 8vo. 2s.—Introduction to a Course of Lectures on Colonisation and Colonies, by Herman Merivale, 8vo. 1s.—Considerations on the Law regarding Marriages with a Deceased Wife's Sister, 8vo. 6s.—The Missionary Repository for Youth, Vol. I. 2s.—The Maiden Monarch; or, Island Queen, 2 vols. post 8vo. 14s.—The Hand-Book of Swindling, fcap. 2s. 6d.—The Protestant Exiles of Zillertal, from the German, translated by J. B. Saunders, fcap. 3s. 6d.—Lectures on the Heathen Gods, 12mo. 6s.—The Female Freemason, 4 vols. post 8vo. 1l. 11s. 6d.—Letters from Abroad, &c. &c. by P. B. Shelley, edited by Mrs. Shelley, 2 vols. post 8vo. 21s.—Burke's Peerage and Baronetage for 1840, 8vo. 38s.—The Spitfire, by Captain Chamier, 3 vols. post 8vo. 1l. 11s. 6d.—Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, with Scott's Notes and Stothard's Illustrations, 8vo. 21s.—Faith and Practice; Sermons by the Rev. S. Gombert, 12mo. 7s.—Lodge's Peerage for 1840, 21s.—Lodge's Genealogy of the Peerage, 21s.—Flowers of my Spring; Poems, 12mo. 5s.—An Outline of the Science of Heat and Electricity, by T. Thomson, M.D. 2d edition, 8vo. 15s.—Campes's Robinson der Jungere, by Underwood, 12mo. 5s.—Knight's Pictorial Shakespeare; Comedies, Vol. I. imperial 8vo. 20s.—Pictorial History of England, Vol. III. imperial 8vo. 24s.—Sermons preached at Cambridge in 1839, by H. Melville, 8vo. 5s.—Deillie's French Grammar, 12mo. 5s. 6d.—Hermesianactis Fragmentum, J. Bailey, 8vo. 7s.—Emily Taylor's Help to the Schoolmistress, 18mo. 1s. 6d.—Pollok's Course of Time, new edition, fcap. 7s. 6d.—J. Johnson's Scottish Musical Museum, 6 vols. 8vo. 2l. 12s. 6d.—Morton on the Nature of Soils, new edition, 12mo. 6s. 6d.—Van Butchell on Piles, Fistula, &c. 4th edition, 8vo. 6s. 6d.—The Lords and the People, by W. H. C. Grey, post 8vo. 10s. 6d.

#### METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL, 1839.

December.	Thermometer.	Barometer.
Thursday ... 12	From 50 to 46	29.24 to 29.11
Friday ... 13	... 35 to 46	29.18 to 29.22
Saturday ... 14	... 41 to 46	29.20 to 29.45
Sunday ... 15	... 33 to 43	29.48 to 29.37
Monday ... 16	... 39 to 42	29.53 to 29.65
Tuesday ... 17	... 32 to 41	29.96 to 29.77
Wednesday 18	... 31 to 41	29.48 to 29.94

Winds, S.W. and N.E.  
Except the afternoons and evenings of the 14th and 17th, cloudy, with frequent showers of rain.  
Rain fallen, .5025 of an inch.

Edmonton, CHARLES HENRY ADAMS.

## ADVERTISEMENT,

Connected with Literature and the Arts.

## BRITISH INSTITUTION, Pall-Mall.—

Notice to Exhibitors.—All Pictures and other Works of Art, intended for Exhibition and Sale, must be sent to the Gallery on Monday, the 12th, and Tuesday, the 14th of January next, between the hours of Ten in the Morning and Five in the Evening; after which no Picture or other Works of Art will be received. Portraits and Drawings in Water-colours are inadmissible. No picture will be received for sale that is not bona fide the property of the artist. WILLIAM BARNARD, Keeper.

## SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND AND LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, founded A.D. 1815, on the Original Basis of the London Equitable.

Head Office, No. 5, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh.  
Present Accumulated Fund, upwards of £845,000. Annual Revenue, upwards of £150,000. Whole Profits belong to the Assured. Divisible every Seven Years.

*Vice-Presidents.*  
The Right Honourable the Earl of Rosebery.  
Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, Bart.  
The Hon. Lord Moncreiff.

The Right Hon. the Lord Justice General.  
The Right Hon. Lord Francis Egerton.  
[All of whom, as well as the Directors, Ordinary and Extraordinary, are permanently connected with the Society by Assurance of more than three years' standing, not only on the original sum assured, but likewise on the Bonus additions previously declared.]

1. A Retrospective Bonus of Two per cent. per annum, or 14 per cent. for the Centennial Period, not only on the original sum assured, but likewise on the Bonus additions previously declared.

2. A Contingent Prospective Bonus of Two per cent. per annum, to be paid from and after 31st December last, on all Policies of five years' standing that may emerge before 31st December 1845, when the next Investigation, and consequent Declaration of Bonus, takes place.

The Directors are authorised, by a by-law of the Society, passed in 1827, to grant Loans to Members on the security of their Policies (without any express security the Stamp for a Premium Note), to the extent of nine-tenths of their calculated value at the time. They are likewise empowered to allow Members to commute their Bonus Additions; i.e. to have their Bonus applied towards reduction of their future Annual Premiums.

Thus, for example,—

A, in the year 1840, being then forty years of age, insured his life for £5000, paying an annual premium of ..... £50 5 0  
He is now fifty-nine years of age, and has an actually vested Bonus of Addition, declared and attached to his Policy, of 1035£ 12s., which, to the 30th of 1845, the original sum assured, shows the full amount of the sum presently contained in the Policy to be ..... £4055 12 0

Were A to die in 1845, after payment of his premium for that year, the sum payable under his Policy would be ..... £4960 11 9  
Or, if he were an object to him to reduce his present Annual Contributions, he might, by giving up his Bonus, reduce his future premium from ..... £50 5 0 to ..... £450 1 0

Or, if he preferred receiving immediately the present value of his Bonus, he would, by surrendering it, be entitled to a sum of ..... £450 1 0  
If he were desirous at present of having a loan on his policy, he might borrow to the extent of ..... £1400 0 0

The above example will probably be admitted to be perfectly sufficient to show, in a practical point of view, the great benefits to be derived by parties insuring with this office.

The Directors are at all times ready to entertain Proposals for Loans, either on the security of Policies, or on the Heritable Security. Every information on this or any other subject connected with the Society may be obtained on application (if by letter, post paid) to the Head Office in Edinburgh, or to any of the Society's Agencies.

JOHN MCKENZIE, Manager.  
Edinburgh, 5, St. Andrew Square.

N.B.—Tables of Rates and Forms of Proposals to meet any particular contingency, or for any specific object, will be transmitted to parties desirous of obtaining them; and all official communications of this nature are considered as strictly confidential.

*Agencies in England:—*  
London.—Hugh McKinn, 7 Pall Mall West.  
Bradford.—Geo. Rogers, Horton Road.  
Huddersfield.—Hugh Watt, banker.  
Leeds.—William Ward, attorney.  
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